Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-137
Monday
18 July 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-137 *18 July 1988*

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LD1807134688 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Acceptance of 598—Iran sent a message to the UN secretary general 18 July announcing that it "accepts" UN Resolution 598 "in the interest of security on the basis of justice," IRNA reported. Iran's General Command Headquarters (GCH) confirmed the report in a statement carried by Tehran radio, noting that the acceptance of the UN resolution is part of a "new policy" that was necessitated by "new circumstances." These circumstances resulted from the "flood" of weapons and other assistance given Iraq by "arrogance and reaction," the GCH indicated, as well as Iraq's "extensive and unprecedented" use of chemical weapons, which is another manifestation of the "dangerous international conspiracy" against Iran.

Iran must accordingly take the international initiative out of the hands of the "enemies of Islam" and try to "remove the mask of deception from the aggressor's face." Defending Islam is something which is not confined to the battlefields and adopting "fresh methods to change the situation in favor of Islam and foil plots is another sign of bravery," the statement added. The GCH nevertheless stressed the need for the fronts to be "filled with combatant forces" in order to safeguard the country and reply to any "acts of aggression and provocations." It also lauded Imam Khomeyni's "wise leadership" as "the most secure sanctuary for the free nation" of Iran.

The acceptance of Resolution 598 followed talks between top-level Iranian leaders the night of 16 July during which "important problems of the country were discussed," according to Tehran radio. Those present included President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as well as members of the Council of Experts, the Council of Guardians, and the Supreme Judicial Council.

Iraqi Position—President Saddam Husayn expressed Iraq's desire to "extend the hand of an honorable peace" during a 17 July speech broadcast by Baghdad radio. Stressing that Iraq's recent successes have confirmed its position of "capability and strength," Saddam Husayn urged Iranian leaders to draw "the correct lessons" from their defeats. He also reaffirmed the five principles which he announced in August 1986 as a basis for a peace settlement.

These call on both sides to withdraw to international borders, exchange POW's, sign a peace and nonaggression agreement, pledge noninterference in each other's affairs, and contribute positively toward achieving stability and security in the region. Iraq must in addition have full use of the Shatt al-'Arab and enjoy free navigation in Gulf waters, he added. The Iraqi leader's speech, which marked the 20th anniversary of the 1968 revolution, also contained sharp criticism of Syria's "crimes" against Palestinians in Lebanon.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz had earlier criticized U.S. Vice President George Bush's remarks at the UN Security Council on Iraq's negotiating position, INA noted. While commending the "positive elements" in Bush's speech concerning Iran's responsibility for continuing the war, 'Aziz said the vice president "made a mistake and deviated from the truth" in his description of Iraq's stand on cooperation with the UN secretary general.

In another diplomatic development, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived in Baghdad 17 July for talks with Iraqi leaders, INA noted.

Military Situation—Iraqi forces withdrew from Dehloran to positions inside Iraqi territory 16 July in accordance with Iraq's declared policy, the Iraqi military command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi troops had advanced deep inside Iran during their recent offensive to knock out the Iranian headquarters in this sector, the communique said, adding that this took them up to 45 km into Iran along a 130-km front. The withdrawal from these areas was "complete" and took place without interference from the Iranians, the communique added. Monitored Iranian media have thus far not been observed to mention the Iraqi withdrawal from Dehloran.

In other reportage on the Iraqi offensive in this sector, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio stated that the Iraqis took 7,116 prisoners and captured 92 tanks. INA stated that the Iraqis "totally destroyed" two Iranian regular military divisions in the attack, adding that all the prisoners taken were from the regular Army.

The Iraqi Air Force launched further raids on Iran on 16 July, targeting two oil pumping stations near Dezful, according to an Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio. The two stations in Sabz Ab, which supply Tehran with fuel, received "devastating blows." Iraqi jets also struck at fuel storage tanks north of Ahvaz 17 July, according to a military spokesman cited by INA. IRNA noted that Iraqi aircraft bombed a "labor-industrial unit" in Khuzestan that day.

The Iraqi air strikes followed a 15 July Iranian gunboat attack on a Liberian-registered oil tanker in the Gulf, as reported by AFP. A fire aboard the vessel was quickly extinguished. Tehran radio noted that the tanker was attacked by "speedboats."

UN Airbus Meeting—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said he remains "pessimistic" about the outcome of the UN Security Council meeting on the Airbus incident, Tehran radio reported. Velayati spoke on his return from New York and said U.S. Vice President George Bush's remarks at the meeting were "in no way an answer to

us." However, he claimed world public opinion "heard and accepted" Iran's position that the U.S. was the "central element" in the incident.

Relations With Canada—A Canadian delegation arrived in Tehran to discuss "normalization" of relations, IRNA disclosed. The Canadian Government confirmed the visit, saying talks are ongoing to try to improve relations, Montreal radio reported. The talks could lead to reopening the Canadian Embassy in Tehran, the radio noted.

Israel

Denial of Proposal to PLO—Claims by PLO official Bassam Abu Sharif that Israel conducted secret negotiations with the PLO through Romania were dismissed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's spokesman as a "cock and bull story" in which there is "not a grain of truth," Jerusalem radio reported. The spokesman, Avi Pazner, reaffirmed Israel's view that the PLO cannot be a partner to negotiations and he told the radio that the whole story is a "diabolical invention."

The denial followed AFP's report of an interview with Abu Sharif in which he stated that Shamir has proposed through a Romanian intermediary that the PLO take charge of civil administration in the occupied territories, though not security affairs. Abu Sharif said the PLO responded by calling for a transitional UN mandate in the West Bank and Gaza, followed by a referendum.

Despite Pazner's denial, Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal told Jerusalem radio that he has obtained a document which "spoke of a proposal made by the prime minister's office to hand over the administration of the territories to the Palestinians. The entire issue was to be subject to the PLO's approval." Shahal said he has received no answer to queries about the authenticity of the document, and he demanded that the Cabinet be shown full details of all Shamir's talks with Romanian President Nicolaw Ceausescu.

Pazner subsequently stated in an interview with the radio that Israel submitted no such document and he maintained that Shahal's query "has been answered." According to IDF radio, Shamir viewed Shahal's remarks as "lies" and "a grave deed."

Reaction to UK Minister—Criticism of Shamir by UK Minister of State for Foreign Affairs David Mellor was "unbalanced and unfair" and does "not promote peace," the Israeli ambassador to Britain stated in remarks cited by Jerusalem radio. The envoy was responding to Mellor's statement to a Cairo paper that "there can be no hope for progress" while Shamir remains prime minister and that Shamir's government is becoming like that of South Africa.

Disturbances—Jerusalem radio reported that an Arab was shot dead 17 July while trying to grab a soldier's gun in Petah Tiqva, inside the Green Line. In the West Bank, four youths were injured in clashes with the IDF in Nabulus and Qabatiyah 16-17 July, IDF radio reported.

PLO Affairs

Alleged U.S. Role in Assassinations—Palestine Liberation Front leader Muhammad 'Abbas claimed in an interview with Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH that the United States and Israel reached agreement 6 months ago on plans for Israeli intelligence services to assassinate 11 Palestinian leaders. The assassination of PLO official Khalil al-Wazir was part of this "U.S.-Israeli" plan, he maintained. Asked about the dropping of U.S. charges against himself, 'Abbas said this has made him show "further vigilance, as the pursuit decision was changed into an assassination decision."

Criticism of Syria—PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi stated in a press interview cited by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio that Syria is directly responsible for the camps war and he warned that Syria will resort to methods that are contrary to Arab ethics and human rights. He predicted that the PLO's differences with Syria will continue for a long time. Among continuing sharp criticism of the Syrian regime by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, one commentary stated that Syria plays "no role whatsoever regarding any issue that is important, basic, and strategic," adding that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is concerned with nothing more than maintaining his own position.

Lebanon

Five people were killed and 15 injured during clashes over the weekend between Christian residents of the northern town of Al-Qubayyat and gunmen of the Shi'ite Ja'far clan, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Shi'ite gunmen were backed by supporters of Elie Hubayqah, a former leader of the Lebanese Forces. Syrian forces in the area did not halt the fighting but asked the Al-Qubayyat defenders to evacuate their positions, thus demonstrating Syria's "malicious" intentions against Christians, the radio asserted.

One person was killed by a car bomb explosion in East Beirut 18 July, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The bomb exploded in a car parked near the Hotel Dieu hospital, killing the driver.

Saudi Arabia

Hajj—Interior Minister Prince Nayif discussed security precautions for the hajj at a press conference reported by SPA, noting that security services are in "complete readiness" to safeguard the security of pilgrims and the

country. Asked about "rumors" spread by "hostile information media," Prince Nayif said these are "threats" disseminated by "enemies" of Islam and of Saudi Arabia.

He also dismissed reports that Egypt has sent forces to help maintain security during the pilgrimage, saying "we know nothing of such forces" and "we need no help." On the issue of Iranian pilgrims, the prince stressed that it was the Iranian Government, not Saudi Arabia, which stopped them coming. Saudi Arabia strongly denounces this "dangerous" step by Iran, he said.

In Iran, the supervisor of the Iranian hajj urged world Muslims to take every opportunity to "speak out" over the "bloody tragedy" which occurred in Mecca on 21 July last year, Tehran radio reported.

Husayn Visit—Jordanian King Husayn met with King Fahd during a brief visit to Jeddah 16 July, SPA reported. Amman television said their talks covered regional developments, Arab and Islamic issues, and the "close relations" between the two countries.

Kuwait

Soviet Weapons—The Soviet-Kuwaiti arms deal announced 9 July includes an order for 245 BMP 2 armored personnel carriers, Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad disclosed in a press statement reported by the ARAB TIMES. The paper noted estimates that the entire deal will cost $300 million.

U.S. Visit—The Council of Ministers lauded the "positive results" of Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's visit to Washington and expressed satisfaction over the "favorable reactions" it received, KUNA reported.

The Council viewed the visit as "an energetic and qualitative step in developing Arab-american relationships," and as a contribution to a "better U.S. understanding" of Arab causes, a spokesman said. Officials accompanying Shaykh Sa'd noted earlier that the visit was an opportunity for Kuwait to outline its "clear-cut and consistent" policies to the Reagan administration, according to KUNA.

Egypt

Three men serving life prison sentences for crimes "related to" the Al-Jihad Organization and the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat escaped 17 July, MENA reported.

Cairo Criminal Court began hearing a grievance petition by 11 defendants in the Egypt's Revolution organization case to appeal the order imprisoning them indefinitely pending investigation, MENA noted.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah, in an address broadcast by Kabul radio, denounced rebel rocket attacks on Kabul as "subversive and terrorist" actions designed to sow confusion among the city's residents. Countries supplying the rebels with weapons are "enemies" and Afghans will take "revenge" on them, Najibullah said.

Pakistan "consistently and flagrantly" violates the Geneva accords by allowing rebels and weapons to cross the border into Afghanistan, he added. Najibullah accused Pakistani President Ziaul Haq of speaking "irresponsible and reckless words" and urged him to "think more rationally" about supporting the "extremists."

TASS denied a "campaign of rumors" that Soviet troops launched a 15 July rocket attack on Kabul, calling it "ridiculous." Government troops recently killed 270 armed "extremists" in Bamian Province and 200 "criminals" in Nangarhar Province, Kabul radio reported.

In a communique issued in Peshawar, resistance sources announced the recapture of the town of Maydan Shahr in Vardak Province, according to AFP. In a separate message, the rebels accused the government of carrying out recent bomb attacks in Kabul and elsewhere. The mujahidin called the planting of bombs in crowded places a "new strategy" to discredit them, AFP reported.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq condemned the "culprits" of a 17 July assassination attempt on the mayor of Hyderabad, according to Islamabad radio. The mayor was seriously injured and a councillor killed in the attack, the radio said.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Offered Managerial Role in Territories

NC1707101888 Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 17 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has proposed through a Romanian intermediary that the PLO take over civil administration of the occupied territories, a senior aide to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said here Sunday.

"It's the first time that Mr. Shamir—who doesn't even recognize the PLO—offered that it take charge of the affairs of the occupied territories with the exception of security," said Bassam Abu Sharif.

Romanian authorities passed on the proposal to a high-ranking Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) delegation late last month in Bucharest, added Mr. Abu Sharif, in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

By way of response, the PLO affirmed that it supports a transitional period of United Nations mandate in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, followed by a referendum on the future of the territories, Mr. Abu Shamir said.

Mr. Shamir's proposal was inspired by the 1978 Camp David accords, which call for a period of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories ahead of negotiations on their final status, the PLO official said.

The Israeli premier has repeatedly called for a settlement based on Camp David but has refused to recognize the PLO—which Israel officially considers a "terrorist" organization—as a legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Mr. Abu Sharif, who said he was speaking officially in the name of the PLO, reiterated his support for direct Israel-PLO talks within the framework of an international conference and for the future coexistence of Israeli and Palestinian states.

Those proposals caused a stir when first presented six weeks ago. Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], another senior PLO official, dismissed them as "political banter," while Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Mr. Abu Sharif was trying to throw "dust in the eyes" of Israel.

"Mr. Peres is a loser, a short-sighted politician who has just shown he is a man with whom neither dialogue nor compromise are possible," Mr. Abu Sharif said Sunday. "I hope the upcoming Israeli elections bring to power men with enough political courage to negotiate."

Qaddumi on Syrian 'Massacres' Against Camps

JN1507201188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1952 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Tunis, 15 Jul (INA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, has held the Syrian regime responsible for committing massacres against the Palestinian people in the Beirut camps.

In a statement published tonight by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, he said the Syrian regime is using methods that are contrary to Arab ethics and human rights against the Palestinian people. He asserted this regime denies Palestinians their national rights.

Comments on Other Issues

JN1607180888 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department, has said it is not a PLO strategy to clash with the Syrians. He added that Syria is directly responsible for the camps war.

In an interview to be published by the magazine FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH in its issue No 709, which will be issued on 24 July, Qaddumi warned that Syria will regrettably resort to other methods that are contrary to Arab ethics and human rights. He said that the uprising has exposed all stands and claims of working for the sake of Palestine.

He described relations with Jordan as good. He said: We do not allow ourselves to harm Jordan. Jordan knows we are not maneuvering when we say this because we have a prominent and decisive credibility. The differences between us have been settled by the uprising and Jordan has realized this fact. However, Syria still ignores these facts. Therefore, our differences with Syria will continue for a long time.

He pointed out that the Egyptian march toward the Palestine question is still slow and has not yet met Egyptian-Palestinian aspirations. He said Egypt is tied with shackles that we know.

Regarding the international conference, he said: We agree on the conference in accordance with UN resolutions. However, the implementation of this concept is still too far off.

Concerning the West European states' stands, he said: We are used to some Western states' flattering of Palestinian or Arab demands for some time to give the imperialist and Zionist forces time to improve their positions and to make us live in dreams. Therefore, we have learned the lesson.

He said there is a slow Arab movement of awakening. However, this movement is aware of its circumstances

and the requirements of Arab security. He said that this necessitates that the big powers take these developed situations in the Arab region into consideration and tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict and its crux—the Palestine question—in a manner that will achieve justice and peace in accordance with the UN resolutions since 1947.

He described the USSR's raising of the issue of Palestinian rights at the Moscow summit as a wonderful image of the friendly Soviet stand.

Khalaf Denies Palestinian Role in Ship Attack

JN1807054888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] yesterday accused the Israeli intelligence service Mosad of seeking to lay the responsibility of the terrorist attack on the Greek ship on the Palestinians.

In an interview with Tunisian television, Abu Iyad said no Palestinian side—not even the most extremist Palestinian sides—has any connection whatsoever with that criminal action.

Algeria

Envoy to UN Speaks on Airliner Downing

LD1707123988 Algiers APS in English 1039 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] UN (N.Y.), 17/7/88 (APS)—The Algerian permanent representative at the United Nations, Hocine Djoudi, took the floor during debates at the UN Security Council about the destruction of the Iranian plane by the US Navy in the Gulf.

"This tragedy, Djoudi said, first concerns the Iranian people but, in addition to Iran and other countries which had nationals on board, it is the consciousness of the international community as a whole which refuses to admit as tolerable or justifiable under any cause, the sacrifice of innocent persons.

"This is an unjustifiable action, the Algerian diplomat said, whose gravity can be underestimated by no one.

"Algeria, which is sensible to pain suffered by the Iranian people and the victims' families, is aware that the happening of this tragedy questions the unfortunate concentration of foreign fleet in the Gulf area and its corollary, a military activism that is not propicious for the promotion of better conditions for the search of a negotiated and honorable solution to the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

"It is up to international organizations, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the UN to clear up this tragedy and make sure that it will never happen again. In the accomplishment of this task, the concerned states must observe restraint in their conduct, mainly when their actions, because of their particular responsibilities, are likely to contribute in the reinforcement of favorable conditions for the continuation by the UN secretary general of his efforts for the implementation of Resolution 598. Because once again it is the preservation and the intensification of these efforts which must be encouraged in order to accelerate the advent of a negotiated solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict.

"Algeria hopes that the UN secretary general will find the decisive support from all the concerned sides in the accomplishment of his mission.

"The Security Council must then take this into consideration and answer in equity and justice to a legitimate expectation", the Algerian representative concluded.

Maghreb Committee Participants Leave Algiers

LD1507153788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche left Algeria this afternoon after participating in the first meeting of the Maghreb Committee [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Sidina Ould Mohamed Sidya, permanent secretary of the CMSN of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, also left Algeria this afternoon, after heading his country's delegation to the Magreb Committee which was set up by the five-nation Maghreb summit. [passage omitted]

Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, also left Algiers this afternoon, after participating in the work of the Maghreb Committee. [passage omitted]

Messaadia Receives ANC Leader Oliver Tambo

LD1807043388 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Today at party headquarters, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, received Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress [ANC].

Oliver Tambo briefed Messaadia on the latest developments in the struggle of the people of South Africa, especially their struggle against the racist practices of the Botha regime and the victories achieved by the ANC on the domestic front and in terms of world opinion. The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange views over a number of African subjects, different areas of the struggle and economic life—especially as they relate to the frontline states—as well efforts being made in the Arab Maghreb region.

Chad

Libyan 'Fighter Planes' Fly Over Miski 14 Jul

AB1507202288 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] The Libyan Army continues its provocations against our country. Yesterday Libyan fighter planes flew over Miski at 1300. This took place after Tuesday's flight by the Libyan Air Force over Bardai, Ounianga Kebir, and Fada.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Warns Against Israeli 'Operations'

JN1807084588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 18 July (WAKH)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has warned against any military operations that might be carried out by Israel in southern Lebanon to increase tension in the region.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid told the newspaper AL-KHALIJ issued in Al-Shariqah today that Egypt is following up with interest the Israeli moves in the Lebanese arena, especially in the south, and that Egypt is concerned that Israel refrain from carrying out any operations that would undermine or threaten the peace process.

He affirmed that Egypt denounces any operations carried out by Israel in the south against villages and Palestinian camps.

He said there are Egyptian-Palestinian contacts on the highest level to discuss the situation there. He said Egypt seeks to prevent any attacks on or threats to the Palestinians by the various parties.

Sudanese Chief of Staff Shawir Arrives 16 Jul

NC1607083088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Faysal Mansur Shawir arrived in Cairo from Khartoum this morning on a visit of several days. He stated that his visit falls within the framework of strengthening bilateral ties between the two fraternal countries. He was received at the airport by Commander of the Central Military Zone Major General Faruq 'Abd al-'Azim.

Tours Military Factory

NC1707132288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General Faysal Mansur Shawir, chief of staff of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has praised the Egyptian defense industry and voiced his hope that Egyptian military production will satisfy all Arab military requirements, including, among others, aircraft and tanks.

In a statement he made after visiting the Ma'ah Military Factory of the National Organization for Military Production today, the Sudanese chief of staff said that Sudan considers Egyptian military industries as Sudanese.

He noted: I was impressed by the advanced technological standard of the Egyptian military factories and by the standards of the engineers and technicians, which confirm that Egypt has a highly skilled labor force. He pointed out that, with the availability of all resources and through concerted efforts, all Arabs can overcome any difficulty and manufacture all the Arab countries' needs in this field.

Earlier in the day when Lt Gen Shawir visited the Ma'ah Military Factory accompanied by Dr Muhammad 'Ali al-Tamami, chairman of the board of directors of the factory, he and his company inspected the various products of the military production plants displayed at the factory's permanent exhibition. He walked through various sections of a plant that makes howitzer field guns and tank and antiaircraft artillery and viewed the production process of mounting these guns on tracked vehicles.

Signs Cooperation Protocol

NC1707095688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0821 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—A session of military talks was held this morning between the Egyptian delegation headed by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf and the Sudanese delegation headed by Sudanese Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Faysal Shawir.

During the meeting that was also attended by the chiefs of staff of the main branches of the Egyptian Armed Forces and the delegation members accompanying the Sudanese chief of staff, the two countries' chiefs of staff signed a military cooperation protocol.

The Sudanese chief of staff, who arrived in Cairo yesterday, stressed that ties between the two countries are eternal, noting that Egypt has never stopped its support for Sudan. He said that the protocol that was signed today ensures the rights of the Egyptian military technicians and advisers working in the Sudanese Armed Forces. The session of talks was preceded by an official reception ceremony for the Sudanese guest at the Defense Ministry Headquarters in Nasr City.

3 'Jihad' Convicts Escape From Turrah Prison

NC1707110988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Three of the convicts serving life sentences in the higher state security case Number 462 for 1981—Jihad Organization—managed to escape from the Turrah prison at dawn today after attacking the prison guards.

An Interior Ministry statement said that the escapees are Khamis Muhammad Musallam, aged 40, 165 cm tall, dark, of medium build, and slightly balding; Muhammad Mahmud Salih al-Aswani, 31, 160 cm tall, with a brown complexion and black thinning hair; and 'Isam al-Din Muhammad Kamal al-Qamari, 37, 160 cm tall, with gray hair and a reddish complexion. The Interior Ministry announced a large financial reward for anyone giving information that may lead to the capture of the aforementioned convicts.

Connected With Al-Sadat Murder

NC1807071188 Cairo MENA in English 0630 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Three convicts serving life sentences in connection with crimes related to the assassination of the late President Anwar al-Sadat and

the case of the clandestine fundamentalist Al-Jihad organization, broke out of Turrah penitentiary at dawn yesterday after smashing their prison cell door and assaulting two jailers, report the three newspapers prominently on their front-pages.

The Ministry of the Interior has posted a large reward for anyone who provides information leading to apprehension of the three convicts.

Minister of the Interior Major General Zaki Badr ordered that surveillance at ports and airports be redoubled to prevent them from leaving the country, the papers say.

The minister transferred Major General Salah al-Din Ghalib, director of the Prisons Department, to the head office of the Ministry where he would spend the remaining time of his service.

The minister appointed Major General Nabil 'Uthman, director of security in Al-Daqahliyah Governorate, in Ghalib's place as director general of the Prisons Department, the papers add.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Noriega's 'Personal Envoy'

LD1507120288 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, chief of General Staff of the Panamanian Army [title as heard] and personal envoy of General Noriega, who informed the leader about the latest episodes of the U.S. imperialist conspiracy against the Panamanian people.

During this meeting, Col Sieiro presented the brother leader with a gift from Gen Noriega. This was a sword, symbolizing the steadfastness of the Panamanian people in the face of the imperialist aggressive plots.

Col Sieiro also hailed the stands of the Great Jamahiriyah, its support for the causes of freedom, and its solidarity with the fight of the Panamanian people against the U.S. imperialist conspiracy.

Envoy Departs Tripoli

LD1701185880 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The chief of staff of Panama and personal envoy of General Noriega and the delegation in his company left Tripoli today after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to the correspondent of JANA before leaving Great Jamahiriyah, the Panamanian chief of staff [title as received] saluted the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for Great Jamahiriyah standing on the side of Panama against the American imperialist plots to which it is subjected.

He expressed his thanks and gratitude for the solidarity and support given by the Libyan Arab people to the people of Panama against American imperialism and reaffirmed the defiance of the people of Panama to the arrogant and tyrannical forces against the dignity and firmness of the Panamanian people.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Iraqi Proposal To End War

LD1807041488 Tripoli JANA in English 1645 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Shahr Nasser [July] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution expressed, in a statement to JANA, his appreciation for the offer made by President Saddam Husayn on ending the Gulf war.

The leader of the revolution said in his statement that this offer is reasonable and in support of we reiterate the past Libyan peace proposal calling for the deployment of Islamic peace forces from Algeria, Nigeria and Indonesia to bolster this offer on the ground.

Letter Sent to UN Security Council on Gulf

LD1507125388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Jul (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today sent a message to the chairman of the UN Security Council. The message noted that the Great Jamahiriyah has drawn the UN secretary general's attention to the danger of the military buildup in the Arabian Gulf and to the presence of fleets from the United States and its allies, a matter which undermines navigation safety in the region.

The secretary referred to the shooting down of the Iranian airliner by a unit of the U.S. fleet in the Gulf and indicated that this direct military action against civilian targets had made the United States part of the regional ongoing conflict.

He added that the Great Jamahiriyah is aware of the danger represented by the U.S. military presence, be it in the Arabian Gulf or in the Mediterranean Sea. The U.S. military presence constitutes a direct threat to the security, independence, and sovereignty of our countries, and it endangers the safety of air and sea navigation and the lives of civilian passengers.

Therefore the Jamahiriyah considers the military presence of forces from outside the region as the main factor responsible for the escalation of tension and the undermining of peace and security in this region. This stand is in line with the resolutions and recommendations made by the basic people's congresses and drafted by the General People's Congress in its 14th session. The resolutions denounce the foreign military presence in the Arabian Gulf and call for the intensification of efforts, through the UN Security Council, to end this presence.

The message went on to say: In the face of these dangerous developments the Great Jamahiriyah hopes that the UN Security Council will assume its full responsibilities regarding such provocative acts which could contribute to the escalation of tension and to the expansion of the war. The Great Jamahiriyah also hopes that the council will endeavor to take all possible measures toward the withdrawal of the U.S. fleets from this region.

Briefs

Ghana Cooperation Minutes Signed

Tripoli, 14 Jul (JANA)—The minutes of the meeting for economic cooperation and trade exchange between the Great Jamahiriyah and Ghana were signed in Tripoli at noon today. The minutes, which were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Treasury and Dr Dwesi Bothchwey, the Ghanaian secretary for finance and economic planning, cover cooperation in economic, commercial, investment, and petroleum fields. The minutes also encompass a study of investment projects between the Great Jamahiriyah and Ghana, an increase in capital for the holding company between the two countries, and the importation of some goods from Ghana. [Text] [*LD1507031388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jul 88*]

Sudan

Al-Mahdi, Opposition Leader on Alternative Laws
JN1507171088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jul (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has explained that the alternative draft laws will be discussed extensively and on all levels, pointing out that there is nearly complete agreement on the technical aspects. He added that he expects some differences over material derived from Islamic sources.

During his address to the second conference of the uprising forces [against Numayri] in the Madani Valley in Central Equatoria yesterday, Al-Mahdi stressed the need to respect the rights of the Muslim majority as well as to preserve the rights of non-Muslims. He explanined that threats over this issue are useless and that there is no point in trying to get the Sudanese to act against their beliefs.

He affirmed that no country in the world has separated religion from politics, pointing out that most inherited laws and legislation contain some roots related to the church and Christianity as a result of colonialist domination over the Islamic countries, which are eager to maintain the Islamic laws.

The prime minister also affirmed that the May Islamic laws were full of religious, legislative, political, and procedural mistakes and that the proposed Islamic laws are cohesive. He said that the draft law submitted to Council of Ministers is one of many draft laws and that the council has the right to discuss it and make the decisions it deems appropriate. He pointed out that these decisions will be publicized adequately and will be presented to the Constituent Assembly, which will discuss them and make decisions on them.

In another development, opposition leader James Surur also addressed the conference yesterday, saying that the opposition does not oppose the Islamic laws but wants them to serve humanity and guarantee the rights of all citizens. He added that the opposition is not against any religion but wants religion to be a means of unity and equality, not something to be exploited by some parties to damage the unity of the country.

Surur also said that enforcing Islamic law will not achieve the desired peace or the prosperity the mases are seeking. He urged the conference to make earnest recommendations after objectively discussing Sudan's problems and to try to answer the big question: What have we achieved since the uprising in 1985?

At the end of his address, the opposition leader criticized the performance of the representatives in the Constituent Assembly during the past stage. He said: We have not achieved any of the aspirations of the masses who elected us.

Christian Leaders' Memo Rejects Islamic Laws
JN1507180788 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 15 (SUNA)—The leaders of the Sudanese churches have rejected the calls for implementing the Islamic shari'a laws in the country saying it will undermine the national unity.

The Christian leaders, who submitted a memorandam to the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the State Idris al-Banna yesterday, confirmed the attempt of imposing Islamic laws will deprive a large number of citizens to live according to their culture and beliefs.

They described the attempt of implementing Islamic laws as unconstitutional and does not cope with freedom and make them second class citizens.

The Christian leaders opposed the Constituent Assembly parliament discussion to the Islamic laws pointing out that elections did not run in 41 constituencies [due] to the war and deteriorated security situation there.

Envoy Denies Chadian Presence in Darfur Region
JN1607104088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 16 (SUNA)—The Chadian charge d'affaires to Khartoum, Abbas Koni, has denied any military presence of his country in Darfur Region, western Sudan.

Koni affirmed in press statement here yesterday that his country will not allow the rebels of John Garang to practice any activities against the Sudan from inside the Chadian-territories.

He said that the Chadian side in the joint ministerial committee between Sudan and Chad is currently preparing for the meeting of the committee which is not fixed yet.

The Chadian charge d'affaires described the recent discussion for solving the conflict between his country and Libya as "positive".

Party Spokesman Denies Kenya Aiding Rebels
EA1701190780 Nairobi SUNDAY STANDARD in English 17 Jul 88 p 8

[Text] A spokesman of the Union of the Sudan African Parties (USAP) yesterday denied that Kenya had availed operational facilities to some Sudanese liberation movements.

Dr Andrew Wisu Riak [USAP chairman] said what existed in Nairobi was an office for relief services for humanitarian considerations.

Dr Riak praised Kenya's leadership, adding that President Daniel Arap Moi had been keen on seeing an immediate peaceful resolution to the civil strife in the Sudan.

The USAP spokesman accused the Khartoum regime of snubbing a national peace programme encouraged by the Union of Parties and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Defense Minister Returns From Visit to Cairo
JN1607110888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 16 (SUNA)—Defence Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and the accompanying delegation returned home yesterday after a four-day official visit to Egypt during which he signed a protocol for military cooperation between Sudan and Egypt with his Egyptian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah.

The protocol consists of exchange of experience in military fields, training and assisting Sudan in establishing a number of developed military industries.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Gunboats Hit Liberian Tanker in Gulf

NC1507130588 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Manama, July 15 (AFP)—Iranian gunboats attacked a Liberian-registered oil tanker Friday in the central Gulf, starting a fire on board, regional shipping officials said.

The 43,546-ton "Sea Victory" was hit by a salvo of rockets fired by two Iranian gunboats some five kilometers (three miles) off Iran's Farsi Island, the maritime insurers Lloyd's of London said.

The officials could not immediately say whether the afternoon attack had caused any casualties, but they said the fire was quickly extinguished.

U.S. Navy warships were in the vicinity at the time of the attack, according to Lloyd's, which did not specify whether the U.S. vessels intervened.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Ends 'Successful' U.S. Visit

LD1707092688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Washington, July 17 (KUNA)—H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah left here Saturday night after a successful six-day visit to the United States.

Shaykh Sa'd and the accompanying delegation were seen off at the Washington reflecting pool in downtown Washington by Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead and top administration officials.

The crown prince and prime minister and the ministers accompanying him were then flown by two helicopters for the 15-minute flight to Andrews Air Force Base, where a large crowd, including Arab diplomats and Kuwait Embassy officials, was at hand to bid farewell to Shaykh Sa'd.

After shaking hands with all those present, Shaykh Sa'd immediately embarked the Kuwait Airways Jabiriyah plane which had brought him to the United States.

Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, was also at hand to bid farewell to Shaykh Sa'd and the accompanying delegation.

Captain Subhi al-Yusuf and his crew were in command for the overnight cross Atlantic flight to Munich, where Shaykh Sa'd is expected to stay on a private visit before returning to Kuwait.

On board the flight were all members of the official delegation in addition to editors of Kuwaiti newspapers who had accompanied the crown prince on his first visit to Washington.

Kuwaiti officials, in talks to KUNA, expressed full satisfaction with the outcome of the visit and the extensive meetings that were held here.

One official said the visit had opened a new chapter in Kuwait-American relations.

H.H. the crown prince and prime minister met with President Reagan on Tuesday, but his full and busy schedule also included meetings with Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead, and with members of the U.S. Congress.

Shaykh Sa'd also met twice with Vice President George Bush and on Friday he met the National Security Adviser Colin Powell in the presence of Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage.

The crown prince had also met with a number of American experts on the Gulf region and with members of the American media.

His major policy speech at the National Press Club on Wednesday was highlighted by the American media.

Shaykh Sa'd's talks covered every aspect of the Kuwait-U.S. relationship in addition to the security situation in the Gulf, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Kuwaiti arms purchases from the U.S. and other important issues.

One State Department official told KUNA the visit "went even beyond our expectations." The official said Shaykh Sa'd and the accompanying delegation did a great job in expressing Kuwait's position and points of view.

Cabinet Lauds Prime Minister's U.S. Visit

LD1707154788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1421 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 17 (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers Sunday lauded positive results of the just concluded visit paid to the U.S. by H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah.

The Council, in a regular weekly session today chaired by Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, also welcomed Iraq's recapture of the Al-Zubaydat area, occupied by Iran since 1982, and renewed peace call on Iran hoping for an Iranian positive response that would secure both sides' legitimate rights and restore peace and stability in the region.

The Cabinet further condemned the media campaign against Saudi Arabia's acquisition of defensive weapons, emphasizing that the Kingdom's step is a normal exercise of its legal right and a positive contribution to the cause of peace and stability in the region.

Briefing newsmen following the Cabinet session, the Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affaris and State Minister of Housing Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan said the Council appreciated the great efforts made by H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah during his successful visit to the U.S.

"The Council," he said, "praised the visit and the positive results it realized, emphasizing that it represented an energetic and qualitative step in developing Arab-American relationships and a contribution to better understanding on the part of the U.S. of our Arab causes that would serve common interests."

According to Al-Rudan, the session took note of the message addressed to H.H. the amir from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, delivered recently to his highness by foreign minister of Senegal dealing with bilateral ties and preparations for the sixth Islamic summit, scheduled for 1990 in Dakar.

The Council, he added, reviewed with great satisfaction the favourable reactions to the official visit by H.H. the crown prince and premier to the U.S. at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan and the extensive regional, Arab and world attention it received in view of the important issues involved and the high prestige enjoyed by Kuwait as result of adherence to a consistent policy line.

While reviewing political developments in the Arab area, the Cabinet viewed with satisfaction the recent accomplishments made by sisterly Iraq of liberating the Al-Zubaydat area and its surroundings, which had been occupied by Iran since 1982.

"The Council," the acting government spokesman said," welcomed Iraq's renewed call for reinstatement of peace, expressing hope that Iran would respond positively to the call in a way realizing both sides' legitimate rights and restoring peace and tranquillity to the region."

It, meanwhile, condemned the fabricated media row over Saudi Arabia's acquisition of defensive weapons to beef up its military potentials in legitimate defense of the Kingdom's territory and national sovereignty.

The Council, according to its spokesman, reminded of the real Zionist goals behind starting this row and assured that the Kingdom's step is a natural exercise of its legal right as well as a positive contribution to realization of peace and stability in the region and to serve national interests.

Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad then apprised the session of last week's visit to Kuwait by British Defense Secretary George Younger and context and results of his talks here which centred on the situation in the Arab Gulf, means of developing bilateral cooperation in the defence and security fields as well as matters of mutual concern, Al-Rudan said.

The Council heard other reports on the visits to Kuwait lately by the Syrian economy and foreign trade minister and the Tunisian minister of higher education and scientific research as well as last week's Riyadh conference of ministers of commerce in the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which resolved to allow Gulf nationals to acquire a trade in shares of national and public companies.

Al-Rudan added that the Cabinet endorsed draft laws liquidating the stock arbitration panel and the institution for settlement of company share debts, created to end the debt entangled caused by the 1982 crash in the unofficial stock exchange, and referring their competence to the original concerned authorities.

Two draft agreements between Kuwait and Federal Germany covering technical cooperation in telecommunication fields and dual taxation were approved by the session and referred to the Amiri Diwan, together with two draft decrees ratifying accords on encouragement and protection of investments between Kuwait and each of the Governments of Malaysia and Italy.

Al-Rudan concluded that the Cabinet discussed and took appropriate decision regarding a number of municipal and local matters on its agenda.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn

Arrives in Jeddah 16 Jul

LD1607114788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 16 Jul (SPA)—King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan arrived in Jeddah at 1315 today on a visit to Saudi Arabia. He was received at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by King 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan held a meeting this afternoon. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; and Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education.

It was also attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; and Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Holds Talks With King Fahd

JN1607130288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan, who today started a visit to Saudi Arabia, held a round of talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. According to an informed source, the talks centered on the most important developments and the uprising being staged in the occupied territories. To give you further information on the dimensions of King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia, we will listen to the following dispatch sent by our correspondent in Amman, Randa Habib:

[Begin recording] Talks were held in Saudi Arabia today between King Husayn of Jordan and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The talks focused on the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf, especially in light of the recent developments witnessed on the Iraqi-Iranian warfront and the escalation of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

King Husayn arrived in Saudi Arabia at noon today. He was accompanied by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and a number of officials. This meeting is the first between the two leaders since the conclusion of the emergency Arab summit in Algiers last month. During that summit, the Jordanian monarch reiterated the constants of the Jordanian policy toward the Palestine question and Amman's perspective on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Within this context, an authorized source has affirmed to our radio that Amman's stand, which is committed to not representing the Palestinian people or to negotiating on behalf of the PLO, leaves Israel and the United States no choice but to negotiate directly with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, within the framework of the proposed international peace conference.

The source added that Jordan is determined to translate its political stands into internal orientations and structural changes for the sake of entrenching these stands on the ground without undermining the historic relationship binding the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. [end recording]

Departs Jeddah Following Visit

LD1607150488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1433 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Jul (SPA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left Jeddah at 1630 this afternoon after a brief visit to the Kingdom.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, was on hand at the airport to see him off. His Majesty King Husayn was also seen off by His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, and their royal highnesses the princes, their excellencies the ministers, senior civilian and military officials, and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in the Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

Representative Addresses Security Council 15 Jul

JN1607210488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1958 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] New York, 15 Jul (WAKH)—UAE UN Representative Muhammad Husayn al-Shu'ali has denounced the recent downing of the Iranian civilian airliner. He said the UAE does not accept any excuse making the Iranian civilian airplane a military target.

In a speech he delivered tonight before the UN Security Council, which resumed its discussion of the issue, he said the United States is fully responsible for this tragedy in which hundreds of innocent people lost their lives.

Al-Shu'ali also dealt with the deteriorating conditions in the Arabian Gulf region. He said the Arabian Gulf's waters, which had served international trade throughout the centuries and had been a living example for safe shipping and naval security, has witnessed in previous years different kinds of tension and a lack of security, particularly the planting and spreading of naval mines and the interception of neutral ships in international waters. This has made shipping and the transfer of goods in Arabian Gulf waters an insecure process. A number of civilian people have been killeed as a result of these incidents.

He asserted that the grave conditions in the Gulf and the presence of foreign military fleets is directly connected to the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. This presence was a result of the failure of all regional and international efforts to achieve a peaceful end to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

In his speech, the UAE representative urged the UN Security Council to renew its efforts to implement its recent Resolution No 598. He said this resolution was, and still is, the only practical resolution that received international support and which treats the Iraqi-Iranian conflict in an objective way preserving the national legitimate rights of the two conflicting parties.

Al-Shu'ali shed light on the serious damage to shipping and air traffic in the Arabian Gulf region as a result of the continued attacks against and clashes with the foreign military units in the region. He said the UAE has expressed its complaint to numerous international organizations concerned with the security of international aviation.

He called on the UN Security Council to put an end to the current tension in the Arabian Gulf region by urging all parties concerned to avoid the international shipping and air traffic lanes in the region.

Yemen Arab Republic

Consultative Council Reelects President Salih

JN1707210588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this morning attended the first session of the Consultative Council. After opening the session in the name of God and the people, Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, Consultative Council speaker and Standing Committee member, delivered a speech. [passage omitted]

Then, the Consultative Council speaker introduced Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, who delivered an important national speech in which he welcomed the brother strugglers Field Marshal 'Abdallah al-Sallal and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Iryani, 'Abd al-Salam Sabra, and those present. He also congratulated our people's masses on this great democrtatic accomplishment. [passage omitted]

Afterward, the brother president and secretary general of the General People's Congress left the Council's premises. The Council continued its session under the chairmanship of Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, speaker of the Council and Standing Committee member. The Council discussed the completion of the constitutional measures pertaining to nomination and elections for the coming presidential term.

During the deliberations, more than two-thirds of the Consultative Council members submitted a request that Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih be nominated as president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces for the next term. This request was contained in two documents signed by these members.

After a lengthy discussion, the Council began the election procedures in accordance with the constitutional rules and laws. The result was as follows: 152 members approved the request while 2 members abstained and 5 members were absent.

Thereafter, the Council decided to form a Council member delegation headed by the brother the Council speaker to convey the Council's decision which is addressed to the brother president. The following is the text of that decision:

Your Excellency Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress: God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. After greetings, it pleases and gladdens us to convey to you the Consultative Council's decision to elect you as president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces for the next term which extends from 20 August 1988 to 19 August 1993.

It is well known to you that after you tendered your resignation to the Council in its session which was held on 3 Dhu al-Hijjah 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 17 July 1988, and that after you announced before the Council the approach of the end of the stipulated constitutional period for issuing a decision by the General People's Congress [as heard] on the Presidency, more than two-thirds of the Council members came forward nominating you for the Presidency and as commander in chief of the Armed Forces for the next constitutional term.

At the same session, and upon the request of its members, the Council completed the constitutional election procedures in light of the aforementioned nomination. The results were as follows: 152 members approved the nomination while 2 members abstained and 5 others were absent. While congratulating you on this dear confidence which was granted to you by the people through their representatives, I at the same time, beseech God with the sincerest prayers asking Him to help you succeed so that further progress and prosperity can be attained under your leadership.

Your Excellency the president, I ask that you come to the Council premises to take the constitutional oath at the session scheduled to be held tomorrow morning on 4 Dhu al-Hijjah 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 18 July 1988. It is God who grants success.

[Signed] 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, Consultative Council speaker and Standing Committee member

Saddam Husayn Revolution Anniversary Speech
JN1707084288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0703 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 20th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution in Baghdad—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O great Iraqis, O sons of the glorious Arab nation: Today, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of your 17-30 July 1968 revolution. The Iraqis celebrate this occasion while they are at the peak of victory and very confident in the present and future. It is something outstanding that 20 years have passed since the beginning of a revolutionary experiment which has distinguished and independent intellectual, political, economic, and social characteristics. On the 20th anniversary of this experiment, the leadership, vanguard, and people of this experiment still have the same feeling.

When we look back at the victorious march we have waged throughout 20 years in Iraq, the difficulties and obstacles to which it was exposed, and the attempts aimed at killing it and halting its radiation, we feel the genuineness of the principles of the July revolution and their deep roots in Iraq's soil and the Arabs' conscience.

O glorious Iraqis: On the 20th anniversary of the glorious revolutionary experiment in which you expressed your good nature, initiative, enlightened mind, persistent work, distinguished patience, rare courage, and great sacrifices in confronting the aggression, great Iraq achieved full confidence in victory, a feeling of reassurance about the present, and confidence in the future.

A comprehensive look at the great progress achieved in our country on the political, economic, social, cultural, and other levels, as well as at the high moral standard of our people while they are defeating, through consecutive landslide victories, the anti-Arab, Zionist, and Khomeyniite plot of evil and rancor, give us tangible evidence of the greatness and value of this historical experiment in the history of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The generation that lived through the time that preceded and followed the first days of the revolution and experienced the deteriorating situation from which Iraq had suffered—the weakness, fragmentation, poverty, and backwardness, as well as the frustration and fragmentation in the Arab arena as a result of the 1967 defeat—feels the big differences and the deep-rooted and comprehensive qualitative and historical change achieved by the July revolution.

Today, some 20 years later, we are proud and honored by the achievements in all fields of spiritual and material life; in industry, agriculture, culture, education, services, and all other fields. These achievements constitute the solid base that guarantees for our great people the respectable and prosperous life they deserve for the present and the future.

On this occasion, with all the overflowing emotions it arouses, I will not deal with our conditions and achievements in the language of accounts and figures. I will leave that for the experts, so each will discuss them within his own field of expertise. The obvious fact is that these achievements have asserted themselves in all aspects of the Iraqi citizen's life as well as in his creative powers in innovation and spiritual and material life. They have also clearly asserted themselves in confronting threats and crushing the biggest and most serious aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation in modern history.

What I would like to affirm on this occasion in terms of future practical tasks within the context of our revolutionary experiment is this new program we are trying to vigorously implement since the beginning of last year in the economic and administrative field and other aspects of life and their requirements and development. Among the main characteristics of this revolutionary experiment and factors of success is its independence, freedom of choice, genuine ability to regenerate, the practical and principled desire to learn from experiences and point out mistakes and negative points and admit them, and the determination to overcome these mistakes and negative points and to forge ahead.

Well-known international experiments lacked such characteristics for years and even decades. And, when these experiments clashed with the facts of life, they had to make difficult decisions in order to be able to take the initiative in regeneration once again. As for your revolution, it has continued to regenerate and to open vistas for the future in a normal atmosphere experienced by the people, the leadership, and the competent organs with a minimum of losses, sacrifices, and expenses.

Perhaps what we are most proud of and what is so special about this experiment is that it has preserved its genuine ability to regenerate and to actually practice regeneration in the most difficult cicumstances faced by any society; namely, the circumstances of war.

O glorious Iraqis, you have valiantly fought against the aggressors and continued construction and renewal. Your achievement has become a minaret calling for admiration and pride, not only in Iraq, but also among all the Arabs. Friends and rancorous enemies alike admitted this, each from his position. Brothers, we are called upon to press ahead with the program we launched last year. The experience of approximately 1 and ½ years has proved that it is a successful program. The economic, administrative, and organizational measures which we started at the beginning of 1987 have yielded many fruits in industry, agriculture, trade, services, the movement of the state and the cohesion of its links in general. A new

atmosphere of activity, innovation, increased production, and achievement of objectives at a minimum of expenditure is growing and expanding in all sectors. Our national economy, which has held fast before storms, is now based on a solid ground. It is more capable of continuing progress and growth. We are most confident that this great people, who turned the enemies' wagerings upside down and who reached the highest human level of ability to deal correctly with life and to confront the enemies, is, God willing, able to continue this creative experience and to realize more and more great achievements in all walks of life.

O proud Iraqis, O honorable Arabs, talking about revolution, its 20th anniversary, and about its distinctive features and achievements cannot be dissociated from the aggression it has been subjected to over the past 8 years. The practical feature of the genuine revolution began to appear; plots against it began to appear. With the revolution's growth, prosperity, and success of its programs in all fields of life, plots against it were intensifying and taking form parallel to its level and to the solid basis it stands for in the awakening of Iraq. The enemies were surprised and disappointed one time after another when they saw their attempts foundering on the rock of this revolution, thanks to the awareness and vigilance of the revolution's vanguard which spread deep into the people, turning awareness and vigilance into a genuine popular rallying around the revolution. Therefore, the enemies designed a plot against the revolution—a plot that differs in its nature and dangers from what they had designed and implemented. Hence came this aggression, which was started by the ruling regime in Tehran and continued over the past 8 years.

International circles hostile to the Arab nation tried to falsify the facts of history and depict the matter as though it was Iraq that began provoking the Iranian regime. By this, they seek to cover up for the black conspiracy that was concocted in the labyrinths of Zionism and the Arab nation's enemies against Iraq and its great experience and against the Arab nation's resurgence.

In 1979 and 1980 Iraq was undertaking the most extensive economic, social, and cultural development plan the Third World has witnessed. Our people were enjoying the fruits of progress and prosperity that started to materialize. They were looking forward to further progress in the various walks of life. They also generously offered assistance to their Arab brothers and to many peoples in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Iraq had not needed to foment troubles with a neighbor country. Iraq had no interest or any objective in doing so. The Tehran rulers proclaimed their hostility to Iraq even before they assumed power. When they came to power, they initiated their black conspiracies by resorting to media campaigns, sabotage, and killings inside Iraq. They then developed their conspiracies by carrying out armed aggression against our borders and economic interests. On 4 September 1980 and on the following days, they escalated the aggression to the point of armed aggression and war against Iraq with all the military, legal, and political dimensions and meanings it entails.

World Zionism and the circles under its influence which have designs against the nation and harbor hatred against it and which do not want the Arab nation to rise and to perform its positive constructive role in the life of mankind have found in this Iranian regime the tool they have been searching for in view of its pent-up hatred and designs against Iraq and the Arabs and in view of the sanguinary and backward ideas and trends it champions. They found in this regime the tool for which they were looking after their other tools failed in conspiring against the revolution and in terminating the nation's opportunity to achieve a broad civilized resurgence.

These forces, as well as the Tehran rulers, believed that the recourse to Islam, the Arabs' religion and their great message to the world, as a cover would facilitate their task of conspiring against Iraq and the nation, achieve their objective of liquidating the new resurgence of the nation, and enable them to transform the region into sectarian statelets which will fight and slaughter one another so that the Arab homeland, particularly its eastern part, will become a farm divided among Zionism, anti-Arabism, and the imperialist forces over which they will impose their control. Thus, the Arabs will lose their identity and future for some time and maybe for a very long time.

These, brothers, are the reasons for the aggression launched by the Iranian regime against secure and peaceful Iraq in September 1980. These enemies, together with the rancorous and surrogate rulers in Tehran, have imagined that by their unlimited readiness for terrorism and bloodshed they are capable of initimidating Iraq and its revolution. However, they have misunderstood Iraq and they have misjudged Iraq's love for peace and its attachment to forebearance and wisdom and misconstrued them as weakness. They were greatly surprised to see Iraq opposing their aggression with courage and ability. In order to cover up their plot and safeguard the factors of its continuity, they leveled false accusations against Iraq, shuffled the cards, falsified the facts, and distorted Iraq's legitimate efforts for self-defense.

On 4 September 1980, the day the official war launched by the Iranian regime against Iraq began, one of the harshest and most difficult battles experienced by Iraq and the Arab nation throughout a history of thousands of years began. The battle was a real test for Iraq as an independent entity, for Iraqis as an ancient people, for the Iraqi revolution, and for all the principles of the Arab nation, its morale, and the depth and effectiveness of its civilized values.

The battle was truly a test in every sense of the word. We had to confront falsehood, charlatanry, and fraud, protect the nation's great heritage, and defend its immortal

Islamic mission. We also had to confront the attempts at distortion, intrigue, and fabrication to which Zionist circles allied with the Iranian regime have contributed on a large scale.

During all that, the confrontation in and outside the military field was one of the most difficult and dangerous confrontations. The Iranian regime, its allies, and supporters have wagered on Iran's area being larger than Iraq's, Iran's population being greater than Iraq's, and on their alliances and their destructive extensions among the forces hostile to the Arab nation, in addition to an unlimited criminal willingness on the part of the Tehran rulers to sacrifice hundreds of thousands of their citizens in every battle for the sake of achieving their evil aims and expansionist ambitions.

Iraq, whose territory is less than that of Iran and whose population is fewer than that of Iran, with a ratio of 1 to 3 or 1 to 4, had no option but to remain steadfast, fight, and repulse the consecutive barbaric waves. The fighting witnessed difficult times in which the Iranian regime, together with its supporters and allies, believed that they were close to their objectives of occupying Iraq to extinguish the torch it lighted and the hope it embodies. However, their dreams were disproved and their large barbaric invasions were destroyed one after another on the rock of Iraq's steadfastness, which I should say is unique, and on the rock of courage, patience, and unlimited readiness to offer sacrifices in defense of sovereignty, dignity, honor, principles, and the right to live and to choose the free way we want.

The battles have astonished the entire world. And the Arab nation has discovered through your steadfastness and your extraordinary capability in defeating wagers, O glorious Iraqis, the essential facts of the situation. The Arab nation has discovered the seriousness of the conspiracy represented by the Iranian regime. It has disclosed the strong ties of this conspiracy with Zionism and the enemies of the Arab nation.

The will of truth, peace, and wellbeing represented by Iraq, its people, and revolution was confronted by the will of evil, darkness, and death represented by the Tehran rulers, their allies, and supporters.

With the consecutive failure inflicted on the Iranian regime in its continuous aggression against our country, one year after another, the leaders of that regime insisted on the aggression and on more killings and destruction, burdened with an additional factor to those which prompted them to embark on their aggression, that is, the bitterness of the failure and miscalculation.

Today, 8 years after the epic-like fighting, and on the 20th anniversary of the revolution, where do we stand? O dear Iraqis, O honest Arabs: Praise be to God, we hold fast to the position which, throughout the years of the war, we in the leadership pledged and insisted on in our views and daily deeds in the battlefield, the field of construction, in our foreign policy, and in our domestic policy. We stand on the ground of victory and building which is becoming higher and higher as well as on the ground of confidence in the present and future.

On the other side, you together with the world are watching the fate of the false, suspect experiment produced by the clique of charlatans, jugglers, and murderers—the Zionist agents.

Noble Iraq, the heir of great civilizations and the sons of the Arab nation; Iraq, which loves peace and upholds right, deserves the position it is now in. And those scoundrels, who represent rancor, hatred, meanness, and backwardness, also deserve the defeat and failure they are now suffering. These murderous criminals have sparked the fire of war, attacked Iraq and the Arab nation, and lived on their empirical delusions with complete disregard for the lives of hundreds of thousands of their countrymen and the fate of their country and its bad conditions and backwardness. They thought that if they lost a battle in a month or a year, they would win the next in the following month or year.

Thus, from time to time they massed their troops for even bigger offensives. The more they attacked our country and the more hatred and desire to kill they showed toward us, the more determined the Iraqis were and the more prepared and experienced they became. Here you are today, O glorious Iraqis and honest Arabs, standing at the peak of victory, while the Iranian rulers are bogged down in the trench of defeat and disgrace.

Throughout the past 8 years of battle, and even before they began their aggression on us on 4 September 1980, we have not stopped 1 day in giving them advice. We have repeatedly told them that they are only living on delusions and that their hopes to terrorize, intimidate, and control Iraq are only useless dreams. We gave them such advice before the war and also after we proved our great ability for steadfastness in battle and in inflicting heavy losses. Still, the scoundrels indulged in their evil and haughtiness. They thought that our call for peace stemmed from weakness and fear to fight. The victories that are being achieved today on the battlefield by defeating the covetous invaders and driving them away from the lands they have occupied in their repeated aggressions over the past few years are the natural outcome of the war between right and wrong, between the will of right and the will of evil, and between the call for peace and the call for war and aggression.

O proud Iraqis. O sons of the glorious Arab nation. During the 8 years of the war, and regardless of the military situation and balance on the battlefronts, we used to say that peace is the natural state and war is an exceptional state, and that the basic law of life is peace. That is what we believe, and that is what the tolerant religion of Islam advocates. That is what is confirmed by the laws of civilized and peace-loving peoples. The great Iraqi people have contributed to the establishment and

strengthening of these laws throughout thousands of years of civilization, and our glorious Arab nation has contributed toward and consolidated these laws.

At this time when Iraq's strength, ability, and decisive success in defeating the Tehran rulers' expansionist program are being confirmed—and from a position of capability and strength—we emphasize what we believe and what we advocated in past situations and on previous occasions. Iraq is an advocate of peace. Iraq believes in peaceful coexistence among peoples and nations, especially neighboring peoples, on the basis of full respect for sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. These are our principles. These are the principles violated by the rulers of Tehran, who have kindled the fire of the war against Iraq, attacked area countries, publicly, arrogantly, and impudently declared their intention to seek to change the political systems in these countries, and used against them all methods of intimidation and blackmail.

On the basis of our firm principles—and just as we have always done throughout the past years—we now extend the hand of an honorable peace, and we call on the Tehran rulers to draw the correct lessons from the defeats inflicted on them and from their failed adventures against Iraq, the Arabian Gulf countries, and the other area countries in 8 years of aggression.

The Tehran rulers have insisted on war and rejected all peace initiatives offered to them and all international resolutions issued on the conflict, the latest of which is Security Council Resolution No 598. Throughout the past year the Tehran rulers maneuvered over that resolution, attributing distorted and strange interpretations to its clauses and rearranging and restructuring its articles in accordance with their whims and ambitions.

It is regrettable that some international quarters have contributed toward that game. Regardless of the intentions and objectives of those quarters in the game, the least that can be said about them is that they were the result of a misjudgment of the situation. These quarters have justified their stands with the pretext of inducing an intransigent Iran, that insists on continuing the war and that is capable of threats and blackmail, to accept peace.

We rejected this twisted logic and refused to submit to blackmail. We said that Iraq desires peace but it cannot accept just any solution. We have reiterated this over the past 8 years. Iraqi representatives have also outlined this in international forums, at this time last year. Before the issuance of Resolution 598, we also reaffirmed this stand. We have emphasized this stand in the most difficult circumstances, and at times when some believed that Iran could achieve decisive victories under the slogan of the year of decisiveness. We said that Iraq calls for a comprehensive and lasting peace, a peace that is based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, and mutual respect for dignity. Iraq also forcefully rejects any attempt to partition the war or harm these principles. Iraq also rejects suspect attempts seeking to reward the Iranian regime for its intransigence and empty vanity because it is the one which insists on prolonging the war and which fully assumes the responsibility for it and for the tragedies and losses that it brings about.

The sound and unavoidable course for the establishment of peace should take place on the basis of clear and well-defined principles which we previously proclaimed, particularly on 2 August 1986 and in the UN Security Council Resolution 598 and all the honest peace initiatives for which we have called or which the international community adopted in the past. These principles are the following:

1. Unconditional complete and comprehensive withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders.

2. Quick complete and comprehensive exchange of POW's.

3. Signing of a peace and nonaggression agreement between the two countries.

4. Noninterference in internal affairs and respect by each country of the other country's options.

5. Both Iraq and Iran must be a positive factor toward the achievement of stability and security for the region, and the Arab Gulf in particular.

Those who are concerned with a study of the practical steps leading to a lasting and comprehensive peace must take into consideration, among others, Iraq's full use of Shatt al-'Arab in accordance with its rights and the rules of international law because Shatt al-'Arab is the main outlet for Iraq on the sea. The Iranian regime closed it down by military force after 4 September 1980, and deprived Iraq of benefitting from it throughout the years of the aggression. Iraq's right as a Gulf state to enjoy all the rights of free navigation in Gulf waters and the Strait of Hormuz must also be taken into consideration.

These are the serious and practical steps for the establishment of lasting and comprehensive peace, and any attempt that does not abide by these logical and legitimate bases which have their root in international law, the rules governing relations among countries, and the procedures for settling conflicts among them is a suspicious attempt whose only obejctive is to perpetuate the conflict and the threat to security and stability in the Gulf region, and the exploitation of the Iranian rulers' inclinations for evil, aggression, and trickery to maintain the status quo.

The Tehran rulers have lived on dreams of expansion. Their vanity and arrogance led them to the illusion that they can impose their will on Iraq and the region's states. They grew wanton, but God defeated them in the end. Defeat is the fate of tyrants. It is high time for the Tehran

rulers to accept the path of peace and give up their black dreams, ridiculous slogans, and hollow vanity after the defeat and humiliation which has befallen them.

O sons of the glorious Arab nation, Iraq's success in crushing the Iranian scheme of aggression and expansion, as well as its firm confrontation of the attempts to foment sedition and devisiveness in the Arab homeland are a historic success for the entire Arab nation and an entrenchment of its existence and the pillars of its security and stability. In the time of their triumph over wickedness and aggression, the Iraqis thank the brothers who extended to us moral or material support—both declared or undeclared, which have gradually developed over 8 years, until these stands became effective in tipping the balance of confrontation. The plot is basically aimed against the Arabs; against their values and religion; and against their past, present, and future. The bitter experiences and special circumstances of the Arabs made some of them refrain from dealing with the events, even the decisive events as they should have been dealt with. This lasted for a record period of time, so we had to be patient and endure with unseen pain the wounds of abandonment and isolation at a particular stage of the war. This is in addition to the wounds of treachery and of aiding the enemy from this or that party.

The only remedy of these wounds were the hands extended to us and genuine pan-Arab stands which extended aid to add a useful weight to our part in the battlefield against the enemy. Patience has been accompanied by an endless hope that the Arabs are one nation and that their present and future destiny is the same. The hope has also been that they will become one entity which has enough vision of the forms and sources of aggression, and which realizes the nature of this aggression with all its dimensions. This would be in light of the duration of the war and in light of the enemy's declared ambitions and rancor against the entire nation. Iraq had to be patient and to deal with its brothers. It had to enlighten them with profound fraternity of all that helps reach a unified stand, albeit at different degrees. This has been achieved. The Arab's stand will develop for the better, with God's help, in order to establish traditions capable of protecting the Arabs from any present or future mischief.

We hope and work so that the development will be accompanied by a common action, an exchange of experience, and a maximum interaction in order to create and develop traditions of cooperation in terms of construction and solidarity among all. This will promote the sons of the Arab nation to a better standard in their economic, social, cultural, and other structures.

The experiments of the past years, the love and the objective understanding which we harbor for our brothers, their circumstances, and potentials, and our realization that seizing these principles and the rules of action has become a tangible state of the majority, fill us with optimism for the future and for the abundant well-being which it will bring to all Arabs.

We congratulate the Arab nation from the east to the west for this achievement which will reinforce its opportunity for an honorable and free life, promote its position in the world, and help in opening the doors wide and making it reassured about the future. The present Arab situation, despite the negative aspects, bears many positive elements, particularly the elements which affirm the need for reinforcing relations of mutual respect among the Arab states, strengthening cooperation among these states in all fields, and affirming the method of objective dialogue to tackle their problems and differences in viewpoints.

The Amman summit was one of the important occasions in which these elements were underlined. During this summit, the requirements of pan-Arab security and the common commitments to safeguard this security were also underlined.

The Algiers summit also came and the sons of the Arab nation affirmed these meanings and trends. In addition to these manifestations and positive signs in the Arab arena, which we welcome, interact with to the utmost level, and seek to strengthen, there are manifestations and conditions which conflict with them as well as with the nation's ethics, heritage, and higher interests. How do we explain the crimes committed against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon? How can such crimes committed by the Syrian regime against the Palestinian Arab people occur after the positive climate created by the Amman summit and the Algiers summit? Silence on such abominable crimes does not serve Arab solidarity and does not strengthen the spirit that prevailed during the meetings in Amman and Algiers. These crimes are a deliberate and a long-term policy and are a stab in the heart for the Amman and Algiers resolutions and foresake the Palestinian Arab people and their valiant uprising in the occupied territory at the most important stage of its development.

Our concern about the atmosphere that was achieved at the Amman and Algiers summits and the Arabs' agreement to back the uprising of the Palestinian people and the PLO prompts us to raise the voice of denunciation and condemnation against the plot of annihilation and liquidation to which the Palestinian Arab people and their cadres are exposed in Lebanon at the hands of the Syrian regime and its agents.

The Arab nation has suffered a great deal from these deviant policies that weakened its ability to confront dangers. It is called upon today to be more alert, daring, and frank in confronting these dangers and crimes to enhance the positive factors in the Arab situation and to establish Arab relations on sound bases.

Sons of the valiant Armed Forces, O heroes, on these glorious days, the days of pride and victory experienced by both Iraqis and Arabs, you have a special place in our hearts in addition to your obvious place in history. Throughout the days and nights of the past 8 years, you were, by God, the epitome of manhood, courage, and great capacity for patience, endurance, and sacrifices for the sake of the honor of the homeland and the nation as well as the honor of the Iraqi women and future of the children of Iraq and the Arab nation. You faced successive waves of rancor and savageness. Each wave contained tens, and in fact, hundreds of thousands of scoundrels who were driven by blind hatred and suspect objectives of murder and destruction. The whole world feared their evil, thinking that they would never be deterred.

Despite all the wagerings and speculations you, O brave men and pride of the Arabs, faced these evil waves like impregnable mountains. You fought them like lions. You crushed one wave after another and turned every inch of the pure Iraqi soil into a vast cemetery for the covetous aggressors. Your exhausted the enemy in every attempt he made to attack our land. You made every one of his adventures a very costly affair. The whole world was astonished by the unexpected losses suffered by the enemy. The losses you inflicted on the covetous enemy as he tried time and again to occupy Iraq's territory and harm its sovereignty and dignity are proportionally greater than all the losses sustained in conventional wars.

While your people and leaders have ensured for you the requirements of defense and steadfastness through good planning, the training of men, and sophisticated weapons and materiel, your morale, patience, willingness to endure, and your valor in the battlefield were decisive factors in confronting the invaders. You were fighting with such a spirit because you were in the right, because your people were in the right, and your nation was in the right against wrong and against aggression and evil.

Those epic years have passed, year after year. The wagerers and the enemies had believed these years would weaken your will and undermine your determination and strength. However, great Iraq, the land of civilizations, the son of the glorious Arab nation, has overturned the scales. With the passage of time our will and determination became stronger, our military means became more sophisticated, and our men—soldiers, officers, and commanders—gained greater experience in combat and the art of war.

During that period the fruits of military industrialization ripened and provided the war with much of its needs, and indeed supplied it with new achievements and innovations that increased our strength and expanded the scope and capabilities of the fight between us and the enemy. Greetings to the men of the military industrialization establishment for the means they invented and produced that boosted our strength and confirmed the creative Iraqi capabilities.

O men, you have fought in a way that satisfies the souls of your great forefathers and revives the nation's achievements in the early days of Islam, and sets a good example to the sons of the nation now and in the future in the defense of the land, honor, and principles. After long years of steadfastness you have brought the enemy to material and moral bankruptcy. After implementing the first glorious stage, the stage of steadfastness, containing enemy attacks, and crushing his repeated attacks you began to implement the command's plan in moving to the next glorious stage, the stage of liberating the land and destroying the machine of evil and aggression.

Your first epic began at Al-Faw. It was a battle that astonished observers. While Iraqis, honorable Arabs and all lovers of good and peace in the world were gladdened by your magnificent achievement, rancorous and intriguing circles sought to depict that great victory as a condition severed from its origins and natural links. However, you did not give them much time to fabricate and falsify the facts. You liberated Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] and wrested the land which the enemy lost hundreds of thousands of scoundrels to occupy in the course of battles that lasted months. Your wrested the land in hours. You then followed that victory with another crushing victory, with the liberation of the sane Majnun [crazy] islands and the purging of the Hawr al-Huwayzah of the invaders after they had drawn up plans and incurred expenses to annex that dear part of Iraq and to control its wealth.

The brave battles continued in the northern part of the homeland. You chased the enemy from one mountain peak to another. You cleansed our lofty mountains of the scoundrels who built castles in the air. The scoundrels occupied many of those peaks when there was not a single Iraqi soldier on them. They also occupied some of those peaks when there was only a limited Iraqi military presence on them. Here we are celebrating the revolution's anniversary only a few days after another major military achievement; namely, the liberation of our dear Arab land in the Al-Zubaydat area. The enemy force was destroyed in this area and its vicinity. If the Al-Faw victory was the great gateway for the stage of liberation this year and the beginning of the demonstrable wide scale collapse of the enemy on the strategic level, the Al-Zubaydat battles may be decisive in the course of the liberation of the land and the enemy's total collapse this year, regardless of what subsequent battles will be like.

Your achievements are the outcome of your steadfastness, patience, experiences, and sustained training and planning. The enemy's collapse before you in the past 10 battles is the result of your achievements through 8 years of war. It is also the natural result of Iraq's steadfastness and great ability to fight, to regenerate, and to continue life and development. The battles you fought are great eloquent lessons not only in Iraqi and Arab military history, but also in world military history. They are

lessons in planning, preparation, training, coordination among the different services, and the exploitation of victory at the highest levels. You are, by God, Iraq's brave sons.

Fighters of all ranks in all Army corps and the Presidential Guard force; in the Air Force, the Army Air Force, the artillery, the Navy, the armored forces, the missile forces, the engineering corps, logistics, administration, and the air defense, by God you deserve from us and from all the Iraqis and Arabs our warmest congratulations and profoundest appreciation. God bless you and protect you from all evil. May God always grant you success over the unjust. With your determination, courage, patience, and enthusiasm, you have built the edifice of peace which, God willing, will be comprehensive, lasting, and honorable for you and your nation.

O zealous Iraqis. That is the fruit of your patience, contribution, and indefatigable work throughout 20 years of effort and self-sacrifice on all levels and in various fields. You have built an edifice of creativity, pride, and progress, a revolution in all aspects of life. You have built the present and the future. That is the fruit of your sacrifices, efforts, and struggle throughout 8 years of steadfastness and heroic and honorable fighting against the enemies of God and man. The glories and victories you achieved were the result of your patience and endurance, and the result of what you have given in defense of your revolution and principles in dear blood and hard and bitter struggle. You built for the revolution and for future generations proud edifices in their various fields, at a time when you were fighting evil and warding off the harm directed against your homeland.

You are a proud and self-sacrificing people, the people of heroism and glories. What you have achieved will remain a testimony throughout the ages to your nobility and loyalty, to the fact that the reward of your efforts and contribution is progress and prosperity in all aspects of life, and aspiring for more. At the same time, your enemy is sinking in the abyss of defeat, backwardness, and despair.

As we salute the great efforts made during the revolution's march we must pay tribute to your efforts O glorious Iraqi women. Your work, loyalty, and creativity during the victorious march of the past 20 years have had their effect on the revolution's proud edifice and achievements. As for your achievement during the war years it is impossible to describe and evaluate such an outstanding work that deserves to be admired and to be in the forefront.

Your enthusiasm and zest were an added incentive for the surging of the brave to carry out their sacred duty on the battlefield. Thanks to your patience the men were able to bear difficulties and hardships. Your activity in the various fields of work enabled the wheel of life to go on, production to continue, contributions to increase and flow, and steadfastness to endure. With tenderness and love you have wiped off the blood of the battle and the perspiration of combat from the foreheads of the heroes, thus restoring their smiles, renewing their determination, and maintaining the spirit of victory.

Your honorable stand will continue to be an example in which Arab women will take pride. Your action will be a symbol of loyalty, self-sacrifice, and awareness. A generation that lives on the values and principles for which you have sacrificed will rise high and achieve miracles. A greeting of appreciation and love to you O descendants of Al-Khansa', Khadijah, Fatimah al-Zahra', and Khawlah bint al-Azwar.

O righteous ones who are more honorable than all of us, when we celebrate the anniversary of the revolution whose honor has been defended by your pure blood, we all know that the revolution of sacrifices is impregnable to rancor and rancorous ones. Amid our celebrations, we recall your great sacrifices and immortal generosity. Iraq's steadfastness in the face of wickedness and aggression, as well as Iraq's decisive victories in expelling the aggressors from our chaste lands has lifted Iraq's name among world peoples. This is part of your contribution and thanks to your generous sacrifices. Thanks to what you have offered, your homeland has become a symbol of sacrifices, steadfastness, and pride. If there are sacrifices to be remembered by the epochs of history in defense of land and principles, your sacrifices exceed imagination. They will continue as an example to be followed in faithfulness to the homeland and ideology and a symbol for dignity and pride. They will continue to be an eternal source of pride for the Arabs and a source of terror for their enemies.

O honorable ones, you are with us on every happy occasion. You are with us at every celebration of a victory and at every dear anniversary. At our festivals, our people turn your names and glorious deeds into songs of victory which are currently being heard throughout Mesopotamia. Your names and memories occupy every achievement and lofty action in the land of Iraq. O righteous ones, from your unique heroic deeds we comprehend the meaning of victory. From your courage, the generations discover the secret of steadfastness and struggle. You will remain with us as symbols of struggle and self- sacrifice. You will remain with us as dear and eternal memories. May your souls rest assured for your good deeds. Our solace is that you have kept your Iraq proud and impregnable. You have been a lofty shield for the nation and its principles and future.

Congratulations to you O glorious Iraqis on this auspicious anniversary which is embracing your great victories. Victory is yours. Glory and immortality to your honorable nation. Peace and blessings of God be upon you. God is great. Shame on the ignominious.

Reaction to Iranian Acceptance of 598 Reported

Baghdad Not Informed

JN1807134588 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1337 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary, in the first official Iraqi reaction to Iran's declaration that it accepts UN Security Council Resolution 598 said today that if this report proves to be true then this will constitute a very important development. Hamdun added that Iraq, as yet, has not been informed of this acceptance.

'Vigilant,' 'Cautious' Approach

JN1807155788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1451 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, has made the following statement:

We have, as has the rest of the world, heard the news carried by the Persian service of Radio Tehran that Iran has informed the UN secretary general of its official acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598. At the same time, Iran's Armed Forces General Command issued a statement explaining their reasons for announcing their stand on the Security Council resolution.

Out of a sense of responsibility and fully cognizant of the nature of the objectives and intentions of the Iranian regime and its tactical methods in addition to our undoubted concern for a just and honorable peace based on the principles listed in President Saddam Husayn's speech to mark the 20th anniversary of the 17 July revolution yesterday, and which have often been underlined by our positions, we would make the following points:

First—We have had no official access, as yet, to the nature of the Iranian letter to the UN secreary general: We are still dealing with a news item carried by Iranian radio only.

Second—In explaining the reasons for taking a new position, the Iranian Armed Forces General Command's statement did not proceed from a genuine desire to establish a real, just peace between the two sides and to conclude a permanent, comprehensive peace accord. Rather it discussed the reasons and circumstances in a phased, tactical method as follows:

The statement of the Iranian Armed Forces General Command called Iraq aggressive—a language that emphasizes its usual previous tone. The statement also talked about a conspiracy being hatched against them and said that their new position is to get round and foil the conspiracy. Their statement mentioned the new circumstances which required a new stand to facilitate what they termed sacred defense and from their viewpoint sacred defense is aggression and expansion. This is borne out by their call in the statement of the Iranian Armed forces General Command itself for mobilization to fill the fronts with fighters, as they put it. Those who want to establish true peace have no need for mobilization and massing fighters.

Elsewhere in the statement, they criticize those Iranians who used to call for a settlement with Iraq. They also say that their new stand is in accordance with what they term as being Islamic objectives and not peace.

In accordance with all these indications and information and in view of the crookedness we have known about the Iranian regime, we are dutybound to be vigilant and cautious until peace is actualy established and until a clear agreement is reached between Iraq and Iran on all the details of peace, headed by a real, firm, and comprehensive peace agreement void of ambitions, deviousness, and aggression.

Official Urges Iran To Withdraw Forces

JN1807105788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1139 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Iraq today called on Iran to withdraw from Iraqi territory it still occupies. Otherwise the Iraqi forces will force it to do so. In a statement to INA today, the director of the Political Orientation Department at the Defense Ministry said: Iran still occupies part of our territory here and there. Iran must withdraw from our territory. Otherwise we will force it to withdraw after sustaining more losses.

This statement came in response to the statement by Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy prime minister of the Iranian regime, in which he claimed that the forces of the two countries had returned to the 1980 international border.

'Aziz Reacts to Bush Security Council Address

JN1507153288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jul (INA)—Commenting on U.S. Vice President George Bush's speech at the Security Council yesterday, Thursday, with regard to Iraq's stand on the UN secretary general's proposals, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has made the following statement to INA:

The U.S. vice president's speech at the Security Council session yesterday included positive elements when he linked the general situation in the region with the continuation of the war and Iran's responsibility for this.

However, the U.S. vice president made a mistake and deviated from the truth in his description of Iraq's stand on what he termed cooperation with the UN secretary general.

Iraq's desire for a comprehensive and permanent peace is beyond doubt. The U.S. vice president, his government, and the entire international community know the reality of the Iraqi stand on this matter. Before the Security Council shouldered its responsibility last year and before some countries, including the United States, embarked on prominent political activity to end the war, Iraq itself had made many initiatives throughout the 8 years of the dispute to end the war on sound bases. Iraq responded to all international initiatives toward this end.

We believe that Mr Bush, in his capacity as a senior official in the U.S. government, knows full well that his government's concern to achieve peace in the region, on the level expressed in his speech at the Security Council, came late and after several years of war.

Mr Bush is also fully aware that some quarters in his government contributed to supplying the Government of Iran with what enabled it to add fuel to the fire, continue the war, and threaten Gulf security and stability.

Iraq welcomed Resolution No 598 only 2 days after it was issued. It informed the UN secretary general and the Security Council of this in an official document. Iraq also expressed its readiness to cooperate with the secretary general to implement the resolution with good intentions.

But Iraq's acceptance of the resolution and its honest desire for peace do not at all mean that it is bound to accept any proposal presented on the way to implement the resolution. We discussed responsibility proposals presented to us on the method of implementing the resolution. We did not find in them enough seriousness and comprehensiveness. We found them seriously imbalanced as a result of incorrect assessments and the unobjective effect of Iranian attempts at blackmail in addition to other effects stemming from the suspect interests of some parties that were pushed toward these proposals.

Iraq was and remains ready for earnest and honest discussion of the fair implementation of Resolution No 598 to achieve a comprehensive and permanent peace. We hope that the recent developments that affirmed the failure and defeat of Iran's expansionist military program will be an incentive for the international community to deal with the situation in a balanced way separate from the calculations of narrow interests and incorrect assessments affected by Iranian blackmail.

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN1707160388 Baghdad INA in English 1547 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 17, INA—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived here today on a few days visit to Iraq. He said his talks with Iraqi officials would cover issues of mutual interest. Mr. Vorontsov expressed his country's keenness to consult with Iraq on the developments in the region.

'Aziz Receives Vorontsov

JN1807140188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister received in his office this morning Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs. They reviewed developments in Iran's aggression against Iraq and UN Security Council deliberations on Resolution No 598. Present at the meeting were the foreign undersecretaries of the two countries and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Army General Dismissed for 'Giving Away Secrets'

JN1807075388 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 88 p 8

[Text] According to INA it was decided to demote and pension off Staff Major General 'Ali Marhun Mansur, head of the Officers' Directorate, and to put him before the competent courts for giving away secrets of his post to persons unconcerned with and unauthorized to have access to such information. He will be tried according to the laws.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,261

JN1507162688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,261 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following are the activities of our units for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force has continued to raid enemy units. Today, our Air Force flew 85 combat missions, through which more losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons were inflicted on our country's enemies. Our planes then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our daring helicopter gunships today carried out 207 combat sorties, through which they destroyed many scoundrels' assembly points, weapons emplacements, and hardware. Our helicopters then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, one tank and three vehicles were destroyed.

In the II Army Corps central sector, five enemy soldiers were killed and one infantry position and one SPG-9 gun were destroyed.

4. In the V Army Corps northern sector, 23 enemy soldiers were killed and 1 bulldozer [preceding word in English] were destroyed.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, one light machinegun was set on fire and destroyed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and two scoundrels were killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 July 1988

Iranian POW's Reach 7,116

JN1507165088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1629 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 15 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

1. At the time this statement was prepared, the number of the enemy prisoners who had been evacuated to the rear in the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah III" operations battlefield had reached 7,116.

2. At the time this statement was prepared, the quantity of basic equipment that had been counted or evacuated was as follows: 92 tanks, 120 guns, 60 armored personnel carriers, 17 light tubular lanchers, 187 mortars, 102 heavy antiaircraft machineguns, and 448 different vehicles. There are large quantities of equipment and weapons of different types, which we will include in statements and communiques.

[Dated] 15 July 1988

Communique No 3,262

JN1607171588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,262 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces are welcoming the celebrations marking the glorious 17-30 July revolution anniversary with pride in the giant accomplishments scored by the revolution on the road to progress and welfare for our Iraqi people and also in the great and unique victories of contemporary history scored in favor of the national liberation movement by our country under the wise directives and ingenious management of the conflict exercised by the victory forger and the builder of the new Iraq, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God prolong his life to help achieve victory against the forces of savagery, backwardness, racism, and aggression.

On this occasion, our Armed Forces once again reaffirm the oath of allegiance to their great leader Saddam Husayn and to the Iraqi people, who reach far back in history, that they will remain faithful to the principles of the revolution to safeguard its accomplishments, defend the homeland's territory, and vindicate the people's dignity so as to triumph over the covetous enemies every time and everywhere.

The combat activities carried out by our troops for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force which plays an effective and glorious role in the liberation battles, has continued, with God's help and the determination of its zealous men, to destroy the pillars of aggression being exploited by the regime of charlatanism to prolong the war and continue the aggression against our people and nation. At 1021 [0621 GMT] today, numbers of our planes penetrated the intensive enemy air defenses to deal devastating blows to selected targets in the two oil pumping stations in Sabz Ab near Dezful. These two stations supply the capital city of Tehran with its fuel requirements. Our heroic hawks managed to destroy their targets and set them ablaze.

The planes of our Air Force flew 87 combat missions to carry out the aforementioned task and deal blows to enemy troops in the operations sectors. Having completed this number of missions, all of our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection. Blessed be our Air Force—commanders, haws, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God for His victory.

2. Our daring helicopter gunships flew 122 combat sorties today inflicting significant losses on the aggressors. Then, they returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

3. One enemy tank was destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector. Besides, four scoundrels were killed and one vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Four enemy personnel were killed, six positions of various types and one machinegun were destroyed, and one vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 July 1988

Spokesman Denies Villages Shelled

JN1607180188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations claiming that the Iraqi artillery corps shelled villages in the Iranian area of Sar Dasht last night and today.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that these allegations are entirely baseless. He added that the artillery did not shell villages in the Niranshahr [place-name as received] area today, as claimed by the news media of the regime of charlatanism ruling in Iran.

Communique No 3,263

JN1707104588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,263 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Great Iraqi people, sons of the glorious Arab nation, and O brave men in the valiant Armed Forces, in the operations of Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah III the plan of liberation has dictated, among others, a thrust to certain points deep inside Iranian territory. This includes the advance toward Dehloran to facilitate the task of liberating our national soil in al-Zubaydat and the areas surrounding it, and destroying the force of the enemy occupier. In accordance with this task, our units deployed along a front approximately 130 km long and 45 km wide. By this, our forces completed their control of all the enemy's operations headquarters in this sector, including the headquarters of the brigades, the formations that were present in the area, and the operations headquarters of the soldiers.

Such a deep thrust and the huge military hardware and weapons that were captured have dictated that our armed units remain there all this time from 12 July until sunset on 16 July, yesterday. It has been decided in accordance with our declared policy to withdraw our forces to the positions from which they launched their offensive within our national territory. A complete withdrawal took place without any interference from the enemy. Al-Zubaydat and the surrounding areas comprising our liberated national territories continue to enjoy dignity under the control of the zealous men of the heroic IV Army Corps and under their protection.

We thank God for this splendid victory. God is great, and accursed be the lowly.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 July 1988

Ahvaz Fuel Tanks Raided

JN1707153288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—A number of Iraqi fighter planes dealt destructive blows to the fuel storage tanks north of Ahvaz province at 1200 today. A military spokesman told INA a short time ago that the Iraqi planes returned safely to base after delivering accurate hits to their targets.

Abu Sharif Says PLO 'Partner' in Negotiations

Official Denies Claim

TA1707143688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's media affairs adviser, claims secret negotiations were conducted between Israel and the PLO through the Romanian Government. [passage omitted]

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's spokesman, has denied the report completely. He reacted to it by saying: This is a cock and bull story; there is not a grain of truth to the report. According to Pazner, as far as Israel is concerned, the PLO cannot be a partner to negotiations. Mr Shamir has already said as much quite emphatically on a number of occasions.

Our correspondent points out that there have been recent rumors that the special Romanian emissary who visited Israel about 2 weeks ago delivered a PLO proposal for negotiations on interim arrangements for the territories. In today's interview Bassam Abu Sharif again repeated statements he made approximately 1 month ago that the PLO is prepared to conduct direct negotiations with Israel within the framework of an international conference.

Abu Sharif Asserts Proof

JN1707134688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] The Israeli prime minister's office today categorically denied a statement by Bassam Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's information adviser, that Israel proposed that the PLO run the civil administration in the occupied territory.

In a statement to AFP, Avi Pazner, the Israeli prime minister's spokesman, categorically denied these statements, adding that he does not believe that the PLO has become a possible partner in the negotiations, as he put it.

It is noteworthy that Abu Sharif concluded the statement which he made today by saying: I dare Shamir to deny this because I have palpable evidence to prove what I have said.

Minister Shahal Supports Claim

TA1807055388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal by moderator Arye Golan and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Golan] Did Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir conduct indirect negotiations with the PLO through the Romanian president? Did Mr Shamir give Nicolae Ceausescu a document proposing that the PLO take over the administration of parts of Judaea and Samaria? This, in any event, is what Labor Party Minister Moshe Shahal claims. Good morning to you.

[Shahal] Good morning.

[Golan] I am accompanied in the studio by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami. Is the document you refer to in your hands at this moment?

[Shahal] Look, one day a printed document was brought to me. It spoke of a proposal made by the prime minister's office to hand over the administration of the territories to the Palestinians. The entire issue was to be subject to the PLO's approval.

[Golan] You do not have the document now, Minister Shahal?

[Shahal] This is not an interrogation. The document does exist; it has not been lost.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, are you certain that this is the actual document transferred by the prime minister to the Romanian president?

[Shahal] No, no. I am not certain of this because it is not up to me to deal with an investigation of this nature. I submitted a query to the Cabinet as a result of this information. The prime minister is not a private person representing himself.

When he leaves to discuss matters like this with elements abroad, he is supposedly representing the Cabinet, and he has a job to do. Because this issue has never been debated and we knew absolutely nothing about it, I submitted a query to the Cabinet according to the accepted procedures. I received no answer, week after week, and when I pressed for an answer, I was rebuffed by the prime minister.

[Ben-'Ami] But Minister Shahal, you are familiar with the prime minister and his determined views. Do you believe that Mr Yitzhaq Shamir would conduct negotiations with the PLO?

[Shahal] I do not deal with speculations, merely with facts. It is a fact that no answer has been given. Today, in the wake of the PLO spokesman's claim that such a proposal was made and that Mr Shamir was personally involved in it, I demand that Mr Shamir present to the Cabinet the protocols from every talk he held with President Ceausescu in Romania so that the Cabinet ministers are fully informed on their contents.

This will allow them to form their own opinions about whether the true facts are reflected by Mr Shamir's denials or by the rumors which have circulated in the past—and I stress:

I do not mean now, but several months ago, when Moshe 'Amirav claimed that he was supposed to go to Romania to meet with PLO representatives on behalf of the prime minister's office. I think the nation and the Cabinet ministers are entitled to know the facts firsthand and study them for themselves.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shahal, perhaps you can explain this: Judging by the document you claim to have in your possession and by your own knowledge of Shamir's views, does it really make sense for the prime minister to propose a deal like this to the PLO, which he defines as a terrorist organization?

[Shahal] Look, I would like to make something clear. The intent was to secure self-government for the Palestinians without looking too closely at their identities. This included known PLO supporters. In this way, there would be no need for Jordan to play any role and self-government would be secured without the need for a peace agreement. This was the logic behind the proposal.

I am not saying whether Shamir actually accepted these proposals. However, when I learned about his talks—and this document was at the base of Mr Shamir's talks with Mr Ceausescu—it was only proper that he answer my question. He could have categorically denied the reports, if indeed they are groundless, but I never did receive an answer.

[Golan] Perhaps you will receive your answer in the coming days. In any, event, we thank you Minister Shahal.

Official Refutes Shahal

TA1807060588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, by moderator Arye Golan and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-Ami—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, Mr Pazner. Is there or is there not a document? Did Mr Shamir propose to Nicolae Ceausescu—to the PLO, in fact—administration over parts of Judaea and Samaria?

[Pazner] God forbid. This whole story is a diabolical invention. Mr Shamir has never proposed such a thing to anyone. Who would ever imagine that a man whose whole political life is based on a categorical objection to any contact with the PLO would come and suggest such a thing?

[Ben-'Ami] Perhaps to do away with the Jordanian option, as Minister Shahal hinted?

[Pazner] No, no way. This whole story comes from the PLO circles. It is an absolute invention, and it is amazing that anyone has even come up with such an accusation. It is simply incredible.

[Ben-'Ami] Why then, Mr Pazner, has the prime minister not responded to Minister Shahal's query?

[Pazner] I think the prime minister has answered Minister Shahal several times.

[Ben-'Ami] What about this query in the Cabinet, to which there has been no response?

[Pazner] I am convinced the query has been answered. This accusation by Minister Shahal is based on some alleged step made by Mr Moshe 'Amirav without the prime minister's knowledge or support. It has no connection whatsoever to the prime minister's visit to Romania.

I was in Romania with the prime minister and can assure you that nothing like this ever took place. No document was submitted, no such possibility was raised. On the contrary, during each conversation between the prime minister and the Romanian president our determined objection to any joint move with the PLO was stressed.

[Ben-'Ami] Is the same true with respect to the last meeting with the special Romanian envoy who visited Jerusalem several days ago?

[Pazner] Certainly.

[Golan] Has the Cabinet been fully informed? Has it been given a protocol of Mr Shamir's talks with President Ceausescu and his clandestine envoys?

[Pazner] Mr Shamir briefed the Cabinet after his visit to Romania. He briefed them again after his talks with the Romania envoy, and it was a full and truthful briefing in every respect.

[Golan] Mr Pazner, we thank you very much.

Shahal Remarks Called 'Lies'

TA1807080988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is weighing the steps he will take against Minister Moshe Shahal, who has said that Shamir approached the PLO with a proposal to take over the administration of the territories.

The prime minister claims that Minister Shahal's remarks were lies, defining them as a grave deed. Shahal relied on Israel's worst enemies, said the prime minister's office, calling the energy minister: Bassam Abu Shahal.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 18 July adds the following: "The Likud faction in the Knesset has categorically denied reports of negotiations between Israel and the PLO. According to the Likud faction, there is no truth whatsoever in the report regarding a message from Prime Minister Shamir to the PLO."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 18 July in a report by Menahem Shalev on page 1 adds that Minister Shahal claimed that "prominent Likud members of Knesset, as well as the prime minister's bureau chief Tzahi Hanegbi, were involved in the offer."]

Peres on Gaza Demilitarization, Negotiations

TA1707153088 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Dan Margalit, in the television studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Margalit] You opened the Alignment's election campaign a few days ago at a rally in Jerusalem. There you spoke of, among other things, the possibility that you will negotiate the demilitarization of Gaza.

You raised the possibility that there will not be a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, but rather negotiations on demilitarizing it. My question is whether you have authentic Palestinians, as you are in the habit of calling this hoped-for leadership of the Palestinians, who could participate in negotiations on Gaza. If so, why not have negotiations on everything, Judaea and Samaria as well as Gaza?

[Peres] Well, in my opinion, Jordan is also still in the picture. I cannot address myself to every quote or story. Both Jordan and the Palestinians are in the picture. In general, it is impossible to reach an arrangement on the eastern border without both of them.

We have a very long border with Jordan. All Judaea and Samaria residents are Jordanian citizens, and it is impossible to hold negotiations without the Palestinians.

[Margalit] In other words, you are not separating the Gaza Strip from the West Bank?

[Peres] I would prefer to solve both problems together in the framework of negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Still, we have said many times that we are prepared to conduct negotiations with the Jordanians and Palestinians separately.

The Gaza issue is simply an outstanding case. I am doubtful whether it is possible to reach an agreement on Gaza first, but I believe it is possible to reach an agreement which will also include Gaza and whose implementation will begin in Gaza itself. In other words, have an overall framework, with the implementation beginning in Gaza.

[Margalit] Mr Peres, I would like to make sure I understood what you are saying. You have just said you are in favor of negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but are also prepared to talk with the Jordanians and the Palestinians separately.

In other words, you seem to mean that it is possible to hold talks with the Palestinians separately on Gaza, and this would mean talking with the PLO.

[Peres] No, this is not the PLO.

[Margalit] So, who are these Palestinians who will come...

[Peres, interrupting] Let me tell you. This matter must be made absolutely clear. The PLO says that all Gaza and West Bank residents support it. If this is so, let it allow them to conduct the negotiations. Why does the PLO ban this, why is it afraid? As for the PLO itself, there are two problems as to who and what it represents.

If the PLO represents terror, if it represents its own charter, we do not care who it represents. If the PLO represents the destruction of Israel, we have nothing to negotiate.

[Margalit] This is clear.

[Peres] Well, the PLO must also understand one of the following two points: It either enables the residents to hold negotiations...[changes thought] To a certain extent, the Palestinians in the territories find themselves in the late Al-Sadat's condition.

They began a war, they thought they would have successes, and now they see there is a limit to these successes. There is even a regression in these successes. Figuratively speaking, one may say that the IDF is crossing the [Suez] canal again.

Both sides, both the Palestinians and Israelis, must therefore return to the political road. If the PLO is an obstacle, there is nothing we can do with it. If the PLO wants a solution, let it not disturb and prevent others from reaching it....

[Margalit, interrupting] Who are those others in Gaza, that you would expect the other PLO—if there is indeed another PLO—to allow negotiations with you?

[Peres] Look, there are many names. I would not like to name them since they would only have to immediately deny it, but you yourself know the names of two or three people in the Gaza Strip who are acceptable to us. These people are authentic representatives of the area. They are not our agents. [passage omitted]

British Official's Remarks Criticized

TA1707115188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Britain has sharply reacted to the anti-Israeli remarks made by David Mellor, British minister of state for foreign affairs.

In an interview with a Cairo newspaper, Mellor compared Israel's policy to that of South Africa and claimed that as long as Yitzhaq Shamir remains the prime minister, there are no chances of making progress toward peace. Israeli Ambassador Yehuda Avner said these remarks were unbalanced and unfair and definitely do not promote peace.

Our London correspondent Mikha'el Almaz says that Israeli sources in London voiced anger at the language used by the British official, which is characteristic of those commentators and journalists who are most hostile to the State of Israel.

The sources stressed this was an attempt to exploit Israel's domestic politics for David Mellor's personal publicity goals. Unbridled attacks against Israel are now in fashion, the sources noted.

Defense Minister Says Laws Impede Security Forces

TA1707134888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] During today's Cabinet session, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin claimed that the prevailing legal situation makes operations in the territories more difficult.

By this he primarily meant the 1979 Antiterror Act. This act provides for the postponement of the implementation of actions, such as the confiscation or demolition of houses, until after obtaining a ruling from the High Court of Justice.

Nevertheless, Minister Rabin added, this is clearly not the proper time to change the law. The prime minister said during the discussion that the judicial authorities must assist the security forces in carrying out their duties.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Firebomb in Jerusalem

TA1507201688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000'GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown tonight at a car on the Pat-Gilo road in Jerusalem. No one was hurt and no damage was done. Our correspondent Moti Amir also reports that two suspects have been detained.

A youth from Gaza's Al-Burayj refugee camp sustained a wound in his leg from shots fired from a .22 rifle by an IDF officer. Our correspondent has learned that the shooting occurred after youths threw stones at soldiers. The officer shot at one of the rioters, wounding him.

Schools To Close 28 Jul

TA1607051888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Civil Administration authorities have ordered all the Arab schools in the West Bank to close next Thursday instead of on the 15th of August as scheduled.

The schools were closed for 5 months in the wake of the Palestinian uprising. However, the authorities allowed them to reopen last month with the warning that they will be closed again if the students were involved in further disturbances. Students in many parts of the West Bank have, in fact, been involved in stonethrowing incidents in the past few weeks.

By and large, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were quiet yesterday, although the towns of Nabulus, Qalqilyah, Bayt Sahur, and other localities were under curfew in the wake of earlier disturbances. [passage omitted]

2 Buses Set on Fire

TA1607113888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Excerpts] An officer in the firefighters, David Kokhavi of Haifa, was killed in a traffic accident near the Qishon detention facility last night. Two other firemen, as well as a passenger of a private vehicle, were injured.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the firemen were on their way to the Egged parking lot where two buses had been set on fire. [passage omitted]

The fire on the two buses was extinguished. The police combed the area, detaining a suspect, a resident of the territories.

IDF Wounds 3 in Nabulus

TA1607134888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Three Nabulus residents were wounded today by IDF fire. PLO flags were flown in the city's casbah. An IDF patrol pursued the perpetrators, encountered a barrage of stones, and opened fire.

The three casualties were evacuated to a hospital, and one of them has already been discharged.

Arab Dies in Petah Tiqva

TA1707061588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] An Arab who tried to grab the gun of a soldier was shot dead on Stamper Street in Petah Tiqva. The soldier opened fire while struggling with the Arab. The Arab was taken to Hasharon Hospital, and died of his wounds shortly afterward. The police have launched an investigation.

'Anabta Curfew Lifted

TA1707084088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Two bus passengers were slightly injured by stones in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that stones were thrown at a No 23 bus on Salah al-Din Street. A window was broken and one of the passengers was slightly injured.

A No 1 bus was pelted with stones near Herod's Gate. One of the windows was shattered and a passenger was slightly injured in the head. Police forces detained several suspects.

The curfew on the town of 'Anabta, which had been in effect for several days, was lifted this morning.

Stonethrower Sentenced

TA1707153488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] A Lod military court handed down a 2 and ½ year prison term to an Arab youth found guilty of throwing stones at a No 25 bus in Jerusalem. The defendant, Khalid Nabil Harbatawi, aged 19 of Jerusalem, admitted to throwing stones at buses on that route a number of times.

IDF Wounds Qabatiyah Youth

TA1707174788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Quiet predominated in Judaea and Samaria today with only a few disturbances recorded. A local youth was wounded in Qabatiyah in Samaria during a violent clash which took place there between residents and IDF soldiers. Stones were thrown at Israeli and IDF cars in several places in Judaea and Samaria.

Bayt Sahur Curfew Lifted

TA1707184688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The curfew on the township of Bayt Sahur south of Jerusalem was lifted today. It was imposed 10 days ago after popular committees of the uprising tried to take over the Civilian Administration's job of managing civilian matters in town. [passage omitted]

PRC 'Apparently' Changes Policy on Tourism

TA1707085088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 88 p 8

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] China has apparently changed its policy towards Israeli tourists and will henceforth allow organized Israeli groups to visit there, informed sources in Jerusalem said last night.

A diplomatic report to the Foreign Ministry from Hong Kong stated that China will no longer adhere to its previous practice of allowing Israeli tourists to enter only as part of groups from other countries, and in fixed quotas. The report said that the Chinese authorities would soon allow purely Israeli tourist groups, with Israeli guides, to visit that country.

But some Foreign Ministry sources expressed scepticism about the report last night, saying that Israeli travel agencies have not yet received any sign of the reported change. The sources also said that China is unlikely to make any gestures towards Israel at this time because of the expected backlash from Arab countries.

Attack by 'Terrorists' in Security Zone Repelled

TA1607123088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] An attack launched by terrorists on a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in southern Lebanon has failed. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that some 30 terrorists stormed the position situated on the 'Ali al-Tahir ridge, on the security zone border.

The terrorists fired RPG's and light weapons. SLA soldiers fired back, repelling the attackers. It appears that several terrorists were wounded.

Simultaneously, the terrorists fired at three other SLA positions in the area. SLA troops returned fire.

King Husayn Returns From Saudi Arabia 16 Jul

JN1607173188 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn has returned home after a short visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he held talks with his brother, Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

The talks dealt with various developments in the situation in the region, current Arab and Islamic issues, and the close relations between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the court minister, and senior government and military officials were present to receive the leader of the homeland upon his arrival.

The prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces returned with his majesty.

Interior Minister Denies West Bank 'Rumors'

JN1607090188 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jul 88 p 8

[Interview with Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani by Faysal al-Shubul—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Shubul] Although the Interior Ministry continues to issue temporary passports to Gazans, rumor has it that the government may suspend isuing such passports. What is your reply?

[Al-Dajani] I believe the answer to this question should include the reminder that these are mere rumors. Whoever has the right to acquire a passport according to the regulations can request a passport. If the regulations apply to him, he receives an approval. The local newspapers publish the names of those receiving approvals. The regulations have not been changed.

[Al-Shubul] Before these rumors started, there had been talk of a stronger government measure; namely, issuing residence cards for West Bankers residing in Jordan—as a political step toward Jordanizing Jordan, especially after the PLO started its quest to represent Palestinians both inside and outside the occupied territories.

Is there any truth in this?

[Al-Dajani] Jordanians need no Jordanization. Whoever holds Jordanian nationality is Jordanian in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Nothing in the passport distinguishes one Jordanian from another.

His Majesty King Husayn has explained this on several occasions. He said that every Jordanian citizen has rights and duties as specified by the observed laws. His majesty explained this question in full and in detail. Jordan's pan-Arab stands have been constant since the Great Arab Revolt.

The Jordanian citizen needs nobody to tell him about his rights or duties or to teach him his national and pan-Arab commitments. The legal situation of the issue of nationality and citizenship is not controversial.

[Al-Shubul] Within this cloud of rumors there is some talk about a Jordanian measure—the first of its kind since 1967—to close the bridges between the two banks of the Kingdom. What is your comment?

[Al-Dajani] It seems that these questions are taken from rumors and not supported by facts. Jordan has not abandoned the kinfolk in the West Bank and the occupied territories and has not stopped supporting them on all levels since the occupation of 1967.

There is no intention to change this stand. The kinfolk in the West Bank are Jordanian citizens. [passage omitted]

SAWT AL-SHA'B Views Husayn-Fahd Talks

JN1707075688 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jul 88 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "For the Sake of Wise Arab Action']

[Text] The Jordanian-Saudi talks which His Majesty King Husayn held with his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, in the presence of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and a number of Jordanian and Saudi officials dealt with a number of major issues concerning the two sisterly countries and the Arab and Islamic nation.

They also covered Arab political moves on the international level in the general quest for peace. The Arabs believe that this peace can be achieved through an international conference that wields full powers.

The convening of such a conference can produce a comprehensive and complete settlement of the Middle East issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, and, consequently, can resolve the Palestinian problem and enable the Palestinian people to achieve their national, legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination on their national soil.

There is no doubt that the Husayn-Fahd talks, which took place in the wake of the Algiers summit, will open the door for establishing an Arab view to serve and emphasize Arab aspirations as well as to render them more influential on various international levels.

Jordan, under King Husayn, believes that the continuation of common Arab action, the unity of ranks, and the achievements of soldiarity are made essential by current circumstances as well as by the overall dangers and challenges to homelands of this nation, the Arab order, and Islam.

Our religion, Islam, is not based on extremism and hostility. So-called Muslims are trying to encroach on, and tarnish, Islam by making anti-Islam calls.

Arab meetings between heads of state—King Husayn and King Fahd gave an example of such a meeting—should continue and bear fruit in order to build a better Arab present and a better future for coming generations.

The meetings should continue to expose attacks against the Arab and Islamic nation—attacks such as the U.S.-backed Israeli aggression whose ugly terrorist practices against the valiant Palestinian uprising have been exposed and the blatant Iranian aggression against fraternal Iraq and other Arab states in the Gulf.

The effects of Iranian aggression have gone beyond strong Iraq to impinge on the security and sovereignty of other regional states and to affect maritime navigation routes and the economic interests of many countries in the world.

Last year, the Iranian aggression that is being repulsed by strong fraternal Iraq—which is winning continuous victories—reached the holy places in Mecca, constituting a challenge to all Muslims when it encroached on the sanctity of those holy places, spoiled the pilgrimage season, and opened gap for the enemies to achieve their objectives.

King Husayn's talks with his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques are another step to mature, strengthen, and defend Arab action to achieve Arab aspirations.

Editorial on Shultz' 'Outright Hypocrisy'

JN1807074088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Outright Hypocrisy"]

[Text] U.S. Administration officials continue to surprise us. Secretary of State George Shultz went all the way to Beijing to ask the Chinese not to sell missiles to the Arabs.

He argued that he himself felt "that it is very undesirable to have ballistic missile technology or ballistic missiles themselves spreading around" in the Middle East.

If this is not outright hypocrisy, we are at a loss to understand Mr Shultz' English. We wonder what does Mr Shultz call Israel's Jericho-II missile? Isn't it a ballistic missile? Isn't it highclass ballistic missile technology?

What about U.S.-Israeli cooperation in developing anti-ballistic missiles? Perhaps Mr Shultz does not consider Israel to be part of the Middle East but as an advance American base in the region as many people think the Zionist state is.

If the American secretary of state is genuinely worried about the spread of missiles in the Middle East, he should express his fear in Israel because the Arabs sought to acquire missiles only after Israel successfully tried its 1,500-mile Jericho-II missile.

Well Mr Shultz, perhaps next time when you come to the region advocating peace, you should not only make a statement in Tel Aviv voicing to your Israeli friends your concern over missiles in the region but also press them as you tried in China.

Booby-Trapped Car Kills 1 in East Beirut

NC1807093488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] One person was killed in a booby-trapped car explosion in front of the Hotel Dieu Hospital [in East Beirut] at 1057 today. The car, a Toyota, carried license plate number 484904. It was parked in front of the hospital's main entrance, and its driver was killed in the explosion.

A notebook bearing the name Yusuf Kamil Faris was found in the car. Security forces have failed, however, to ascertain whether the book belonged to the deceased.

The explosion caused damage to three cars and a fire, which was contained by the fire brigades.

Tension, Fighting Escalates in Al-Qubayyat

5 Dead, 13 Wounded

NC1707121688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Excerpt] While political developments have taken a break pending next week's activity, a new security development surfaced today. This is the escalating tension and fighting in the Al-Qubayyat area, which has left 5 people dead and 13 others wounded, according to a preliminary report.

Recent incoming reports state that clashes are continuing in the Al-Qubayyat area between the town's residents and the Ja'far clan. Heavy- and medium-caliber weapons are being used. Four members of the Ja'far clan and Lebanese Army Corporal Elie Iliya Faris have been killed in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Cease-Fire Declared

NC1707142788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] A cease-fire was declared in the Al-Qubayyat area at 1515 today. However, there have been no reports yet as to whether the cease-fire is being honored or not.

Until that time, Al-Qubayyat had been coming under violent artillery shelling as Ja'far clan gunmen attempted to advance, supported by two pro-Hubayqah groups brought in from Zahlah, as well as Hizballah elements. There were also signs of activity by Syrian Ba'th Party Organization supporters in the 'Akkar plain to support the Ja'far clan, indicating an intention to besiege Al-Qubayyat and 'Andaqat from all sides.

The shelling left 2 people dead in Al-Qubayyat; 25 others were wounded, most of them seriously.

Residents of Al-Qubayyat have appealed to prominent leaders and officials in the district to act quickly to stop the criminal attacks. They affirmed that one of the most basic international customs is for occupation forces to protect the security of civilians, rather than using political extortion and terrorism against them to achieve known objectives.

Shelling Continues

NC1707193788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] According to the latest reports from the Al-Qubayyat region, the Al-Zuq neighborhood came under rocket and artillery shelling tonight, despite the deployment of Syrian forces in the area following the clashes between residents of the town and the Ja'far clan. Five persons were killed and 15 injured in these clashes.

Fighting Erupts Again

NC1807121088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The situation in the Al-Qubayyat area has flared up seriously since the entry of Syrian occupation forces into the town yesterday afternoon on the pretext of establishing security. This raises big questions about the sincerity of the Syrians, who are covering up the blatant aggression against the town and are trying to exploit it to strengthen their domination. It appears that the answer to these questions is becoming obvious.

According to the latest reports, the towns of Al-Qubayyat and 'Andaqat came under heavy artillery shelling this afternoon. Several citizens were injured. They cannot be moved out of the towns for treatment because of the security cordon imposed by the Syrian occupation forces.

Gunmen of the Ja'far clan supported by Hizballah elements led by Haytham al-Musawi, and supported by groups loyal to Elie Hubayqah, as well as by elements of the Arab Democratic Party, launched two violent attacks against Al-Qubayyat today.

The first attack centered on the Al-Shanbuq-Hayy al-Kanisah axis and resulted in the withdrawal of the Syrian disengagement force upon orders from its command. The second attack was launched simultaneously with a violent artillery shelling. [passage omitted]

According to reports from 'Akkar today, the Syrians cut all telephone lines and electrical power when they entered Al-Qubayyat yesterday. [passage omitted]

Deputy Mikhayil al-Dahir said today that he is perplexed about the reasons and background of the events taking place in Al-Qubayyat. He said: I do not know who is actually behind this. We have always lived together amicably and peacefully. He hoped that the investigation will reveal the reasons for the events. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Franjiyah 18 Jul
JN1807114288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah at 1145 today. Sulayman Franjiyah was accompanied by his son, Robert Franjiyah.

Speaker Receives Message from Iran's Rafsanjani
JN1607125088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] This morning, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah received Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus. At the beginning of the meeting the ambassador conveyed to the People's Assembly speaker a message from Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Majlis, that included profound thanks in his name and on behalf of the Majlis members and the Iranian people, for the Syrian People's Assembly's condolences on the tragic incident in which an Iranian civilian airliner was brought down by a U.S. warship, killing 290 innocent passengers.

The message conveyed the hope for continued solidarity and coordination between the two countries to serve their joint interests. It also affirms the importance of continued cooperation in confronting U.S. imperialism and Zionism and to restore the usurped national rights of the Palestinian Arab people whose heroic uprising is being confronted with the hardest measures of repression, oppression, and torture. The message stresses confidence that the Palestinian people's struggle and brave uprising against their enemies and the defeatists will be crowned with certain victory with the support of progressive forces, headed by Syria. This struggle will also lead to the liberation of Jerusalem and all the occupied Arab territories and to the cutting off of the hands of U.S. imperialism and the executioners of its aggressive schemes in the region.

The message asserts the need to consolidate ties, especially on the parliamentary level.

'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah thanked the ambassador for his visit and asked him to convey his greetings to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Islamic Majlis. He thanked him for the sentiments included in his message. Qaddurah also talked about some current issues and positions. He noted the importance of continuing to expand and consolidate relations on all levels, especially on the bilateral parliamentary level, in international parliamentary forums, and the exchange of visits and expertise between the People's Assembly and the Majlis in the service of their joint interests.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Iranian Envoy
LD1607191688 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, July 16, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari met Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi here today and presented a message from his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi.

In his message, Musavi has stressed the importance of strengthening relations between the two countries in their fight against imperialism and Zionism.

Akhtari also met the speaker of the People's Assembly of Syria Abdul Qadir Qaddurah here the same day, and conveyed to him a message from Iranian Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his message, Rafsanjani has expressed hope over continuation of mutual cooperation and coordination in line with their common interests. He also emphasized the continuation of Tehran-Damascus cooperation to counter imperialist-Zionist plots, and to restore the denied rights of Palestinian Muslims.

Both Rafsanjani and Musavi have thanked Syrian officials for deploring the rhecent U.S. crime of downing an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf July 3.

Khaddam, PNSF Leaders Discuss Camps Rebuilding
JN1707143088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Today, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the leaders of the PNSF. Front Chairman Khalid al-Fahum said that the meeting was devoted to discussing the conditions of the Palestinians, especially rebuilding the Palestinian camps in Beirut and the return of the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah inhabitants to their homes. The meeting was also attended by the leaders of Fatah-Provisional Command, the PFLP-GC, and the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-Al-Sa'iqah Forces organization.

U.S. Stand on Iranian Airbus Downing Condemned
JN1707064288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Crime and the Exposed Terrorism," AL-THAWRAH says: The deliberations underway in the UN Security Council have demonstrated that there is an international consensus condemning the U.S. crime of bringing down the Iranian civilian airliner. This is the most odious forms of international terrorism—and one in which the United States and those in its orbit, such as the United Kingdom and the Zionist entity, excel. The current deliberations have

not only exposed the falsehood of U.S. claims and excuses, but have also shown how impudent the United States is in trying to find justifications for its odious crime. The United States does so while its political and media organs do not hesitate in waging ruthless and deceptive campaigns against people's movements and forces that are struggling for the independence of their land, the freedom of their people, and the recovery of their dignity.

With such a U.S. crime, no further example is needed to expose the U.S. policy and its underhanded dealings in the Arabian Gulf. The American endeavors to exacerbate tension in the Gulf region have been and continue to be clearly defined through the dispatch of more war vessels to this region. The U.S. policy seeks to inflame further this region to fulfill the objective of hegemony under the cover of its so-called claim of safeguarding the security of navigation in the Gulf. Does the downing of the Iranian civilian airliner safeguard security in the Gulf?

Commentary Views U.S. Statements on Missiles

JN1607144488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Welcoming the heir apparent of Kuwait, President Reagan was at pains to stress two points: the vigorous pursuit of an overall peace meeting legitimate Palestinian political aspirations and addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns.

As President Reagan was discussing Israel's preoccupation with its legitimate security concerns, his secretary of state, George Shultz, was talking about these concerns. He said that he took up with the PRC foreign minister the subject of Chinese missile sales. The Chinese had informed him, Shultz said, that they will not be selling long-range missiles to any country besides Saudi Arabia.

President Reagan's aides and speech writers seem to have become so emboldened as to raise truly provocative topics with Washington's Arab guests. Bringing up what Reagan called Israel's security concerns in a speech welcoming an Arab official is something of an affront to Arab feelings as well as unrealistic.

That Israel's expansionist plots, bellicose policies, and belligerency pose a threat to the peace, security, and stability of Mideast countries is now common knowledge around the world. It is equally universally acknowledged that Israel occupies the entire territory designated for a Palestinian Arab state by a UN General Assembly resolution in addition to territory of three Arab countries while defying UN resolutions on Palestine and the Mideast. The world also knows that the theory of secure borders is an Israeli innovation built on military aggression and territorial expansion. Israel first looks on contact lines as defensive borders, then makes territorial gains using the pretext of securing the previous lines. These, in turn, become untenable, so Israel makes further territorial encroachments as a matter of necessity. This is the flimsy theory that Israel uses as a cover for its scheme of teritorial expansion and annexation, which the United States embraces and backs militarily, economically, politically, and diplomatically.

The world knows that all of the Arab countries, including Kuwait and other Gulf states, are being threatened by Israel's expansionist projects. The threat is not academic. Enunciated by Israel's leaders, its schemes target Arab oil and the Nile and Euphrates. The U.S. President, nonetheless, continues to talk about addressing Israel's security concerns. Those whose security concerns need to be addressed are the Arabs, who are constantly under Israeli threat and those of the sophisticated war machine which the United States gave Israel under the pretense of guaranteeing Israel's security.

Reagan, meanwhile, does not utter a single word about Arab security requirements or the need for an Israeli pullout from occupied Arab land. President Reagan will not encounter any Arab who will accept American arguments about Israel's need for security guarantees or the theory that Israel's security must be built on Arab land and at the expense of Arab rights. Talk by U.S. officials about the need to meet Israel's security interests when the international community calls on Israel to evacuate occupied Arab land and recognize Palestinian national rights testifies anew to Washington's bias toward Israel's territorial designs and contempt for the Arabs, their rights, and their land.

Israel's security theory is untenable to begin with. Given modern weapon systems, including long-range missiles, talk about geographic, natural, and secure borders becomes irrelevant. If Secretary Shultz is now attempting in Beijing to keep the Arabs from gaining access to defensive arms while the United States lavishes all types of weapons on Israel and condones its research into military nuclear technology, he betrays the U.S. wish to see the Arabs surrender to Washington and Tel Aviv and to dash Arab hopes of holding their ground against the Israeli enemy. The U.S. leadership would, however, do well to understand that the true Arabs are not the ones entangled with the Camp David policy or those who are pursuing affairs that have nothing to do with the Arab-Zionist conflict. The genuine Arabs are those who are making history, refusing capitulation, and making all of the sacrifices needed to liberate Arab land and regain usurped Arab rights.

Peace is inconceivable in an atmosphere of humiliation, fear, and threats. For peace to be established, there must first be justice, and there is no justice in rewarding the aggressors.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks on Geneva Accords, Attacks

LD1607220488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Speech by President Najibullah on 16 July on implementation of Geneva Accords, national reconciliation policy, and extremist attacks against nonmilitary targets; place not specified—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Dear compatriots: We want to talk about an issue which is worrying the inhabitants of Kabul and all the country.

I see your faces; I hear your voices; my heart, together with yours, is suffering from pain. I want to talk about the unprecedented flare of bloody terrorism being carried out by the crafty and merciless enemy against the peaceloving inhabitants of Kabul and other cities.

Yesterday, on the holy Friday, once again the city was awakened by explosions and the screams of injured people and orphans. Once again, in various corners of the city, houses were shaken and windows broken. We buried another 20 people and took 30 injured people to the hospital, where they were given immediate assistance.

Once again Kabul became the target of savage, merciless, meaningless, and aimless attacks. For some time now Kabul has been the target of subversive and terrorist actions by the extremists. Government institutions, residential regions, even markets, schools, and hospitals have been the target of subversive activities for the last 10 years. However, the number of terrorist actions against the capital's inhabitants have increased considerably in the past 3 months.

At the moment there are no internationalist military personnel in 19 of our provinces. However, the irreconcilable extremists have not been able to take control of even a big desert. The enemy is trying to create a feeling of confusion among the capital's inhabitants and to weaken the spirit of the supporters of national reconciliation, even to threaten them.

The decisive political victories, such as the attainment of the Geneva accords, the formation of a new government, and the commencement of work by the Milli Shura, have shown the true nature of our state policy to the world. We have revealed the inhumane nature and lack of stability in the activities of the extremists. They will not bow to peaceful compromise for the sake of the people's prosperity. The enemy thinks that by causing fear and terror it can hide its political incapability.

The crime against nonmilitary personnel also has another reason. By killing in an destroying the suburbs of Kabul, the enemy is trying to fill the minds of our patriotic people with poisonous propaganda and is striving to blame the extremist attacks on the Armed Forces of Afghanistan and on our friends, the Soviet soldiers. It should be noted that this is a mere lie and does not have any foundation. Our compatriots, in particular those who mourn their dearest ones as a result of these attacks, should not be influenced by the enemy's provocative propaganda.

As the country's president, with a feeling of responsibility toward my people, I announce that in recent months the armed opposition groups, the so-called mujahidin, have fired at the country's capital with missiles and shells made in the United States, England, Egypt, and China. In order to prove what I have just said, during a press conference today home and foreign journalists were shown a missile which was fired at Kabul yesterday, but which failed to explode. Unfortunately, we read the name of the Islamic country of Egypt on this missile.

Those who give these missiles to the extremists are accomplices to extremist crimes and their hands are stained with the blood of Afghans. The Afghans will inflict their revenge on their enemies. This action has caused hatred among our soldiers and officers. However, an understanding of responsibility toward a future of national peace is the reason why the Armed Forces avoid serious combat operations. However, we will have to make a serious decision in reply to these actions.

Dear compatriots, what decision do you expect from me, as the president? I, who enjoy necessary authority, can order a military reprisal. I can order retaliatory fire which will destroy the enemy. However, we are bound to the humane principles of the national reconciliation policy. We want to reduce war victims. I have total confidence that this policy conforms with the interests of all Afghan people.

I address the armed opposition commanders who operate inside Afghan territory: We should embark on constructive negotiations, taking into consideration future cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect and a correct understanding of popular national interest. Kabul will show that it is a real bastion of the revolution and is a stronghold for the cause of peace in long-suffering Afghanistan.

Since the first days of the implementation of the Geneva accords, the Afghanistan Government has displayed formidable respect for international laws, and to the United Nations, under whose sponsorship these accords were concluded. However, Pakistan, which is another promissory party to the Geneva accords, has been consistently and flagrantly violating the Geneva accords during this period with amazing impudence, which has surprised world public opinion. The Pakistani dispatch

of opposition groups and weapons is continuing. Convoys carrying ammunition and mines via the borders arrive in the regions of Konarha, Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktika, Khowst, Zabol, Qandahar, and Kabul Provinces. These shells and mines hit our houses and kill our youths, our women, our elders, and our children. Where is the conscience of the organizers and perpetrators of these crimes?

During the period 30 March-15 July the extremists have fired heavy weapons, 167 rockets, 60 artillery shells, and 30 mortars on the city of Kabul. As a result, 43 civilians and 17 military personnel have been martyred; 63 civilian inhabitants and 12 military personnel have been injured. During this period the extremists organized 67 explosions in the city of Kabul. As a result of these explosions, 78 civilians have been martyred and 92 people have been injured. The missile attacks on 9 May, the car bomb on 5 May, and yesterday's tragedy will remain in our minds for a long time.

We continuously hand over notes to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] which contain clear and undeniable facts of Geneva accord violations by Pakistan. These notes indicate the exact locations for the transport of weapons via the border, the amount and type of transported weapons, and the routes used to penetrate our country by armed extremists. In return, however, we hear irresponsible and reckless words from Ziaul Haq. Despite all the decisions made, the Pakistani authorities ignore the activities of the so-called extremist opposition provisional government in Peshawar, which has not even been recongnized by its own units and commanders.

We have said many times and we repeat, that Ziaul Haq should think more rationally. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

What does the enemy hope to gain by firing on civilian regions of the capital? Do they want to vent their anger because of the foiling of their plans and their defeat at the hands of our Armed Forces since the start of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces?

Despite all the hue and cry and enemy intimidation, Kabul will have a peaceful life. Kabul will heroically resist and will ensure a peaceful life for the country. Compatriots, religious brothers and sisters, noble people of Afghanistan! It is very painful to speak about the explosion and slaughter on the eve of the auspicious Id al-Adha [eve of Hajj ceremonies], this happy day for all of us, for the tribes and nationalities of the Republic of Afghanistan, for the Pashtun and Baluchi. I beseech Almighty God to make the auspicious days of this prosperous Id a source of happiness and health for each Afghan family and for each compatriot sister and brother. May it become a source of inspiration for all those Afghans away from the warm fold of the homeland to return to the homeland, their forefather home, and to begin a peaceful life in a climate of fraternity, Islamic, and Afghani [word indistinct].

Hajj guarantees a high Islamic philosophy. It becomes an important social interest and makes a Muslim think only of God in his sacred place. Therefore, the light of equality, unity, and sincerity shines out from the ranks of those pure souls who with deference and reverence pay homage to the sacred home [Mecca], at a time when they say yes to God. They fulfill the right and ritual of Hajj with good intention, with a peaceful conscience, and return with a holy and [word indistinct] Hajj. These directions are a test for the servant of God, and his sacrifice and self-denial in order to obey God's instruction. Id al-Adha manifests the fact that Abraham, peace be upon him, was ready to sacrifice his son Ismael, peace be upon him, only at the instruction and will of God and in fulfilling the will of the Almighty.

This great and outstanding test is an important lesson for the honest servants of God in order to fulfill the will of the Almighty. Id al-Adha is one of the glorious Islamic Ids. It is on such a day that the Hajj pilgrims who come from various Islamic countries to Mecca may meet each other. They should use this opportunity to strengthen the pillar of unity and alliance among Muslims.

Afghanistan's people are presently being exposed to such a great historic test. At the present time, when a meaningless war has been imposed on our Islamic country, peace should be ensured among Muslims on instructions from God.

The state and people of Afghanistan have approved the national reconciliation policy and are making sacrifices in order to ensure its implementation. It is a proud cause for us that with full deference, following the instructions of Almighty God, and accepting any type of concession and sacrifice, we advance decisively and honestly. We have complete belief that we are opening a way in this difficult, but prosperous cause toward peace, tranquility, the end of war, and fratricide. We believe in the instruction of God who says God invites to a sound home and instructs each of those who want to follow a straight path.

Muslim compatriots, we say clearly once again that we have chosen the path of reconciliation on the instruction and will of God and with a patriotic conscience. We implement it with a good Islamic and Afghan intention. We are proud that each of our gains shows the implementation of our people's wishes and is being supported and backed by them. Now the national reconciliation policy has been transformed into a popular cause, a cause for continuing the people's life, and cause for the eternity and security of Afghanistan.

The present situation demands that all the Muslim people of Afghanistan, that all the national and progressive forces, regardless of political ideology and local,

regional, and organizational interest, become united into a broad front for the sake of the national interest, the defense of the sacred wish for independence, for peace, and for progress and social justice toward developing and ensuring a speedy national reconciliation. The protection and construction of a developed and advanced Afghanistan without doubt is a joint wish and responsibility of each patriotic and progressive person in the country. No one is allowed to refuse participation in this great national cause or to avoid it. Such a crime would be unforgivable. We can proudly say that since its declaration the national reconciliation policy has made great gains at the international and national level.

Today our country enjoys great credibility and prestige at the international level. The truth about national reconciliation and our honesty in ensuring this policy has become clear to the world.

The support and backing of the international community for the implementation of the Geneva accords is a part of this policy's gains. Anyone who tries to violate the Geneva accords, which fully conform with Islamic principles, without doubt will face condemnation by the world's Muslims and by all the world's peace-loving people. Fortunately, the Republic of Afghanistan has the support of the world's people of the world with regard to this policy and its humane and peace-loving efforts. Afghanistan is a peaceloving country, honest to the will of its people, loyal to the UN Charter, and is playing its role in implementing the Geneva accords constantly and honestly.

Our country expresses sincere appreciation to the esteemed UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, and his deputy and special envoy, the esteemed Cordovez, for their efforts aimed at resolving the situation around Afghanistan and the implementation of the Geneva accords.

Our compatriots are aware that as a result of implementing the national reconciliation policy, democratic elections were held in the country, the Milli Shura was formed, and a new government with a coalition cabinet was introduced to the Milli Shura to receive a vote of confidence. The views expressed by the nation's representative during the discussion on the government policy were in themselves a fine example of the existence of a broad and popular democracy in our country. Creating a coalition government and the participation of all progressive and patriotic forces in running the country is in fact a manifestation of the people's will to end the war and ensure peace.

This continued and reliable Islamic policy of the Republic of Afghanistan has been strengthened by the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. Measures have been increased by the state for the sacred religion of Islam. The advice of the Presidential High Islamic Consultative Council has become an important and valuable role in paying attention to and expanding our measures in all spheres of life in the country. Therefore, the Republic of Afghanistan has prepared many facilities for the pilgrims of Hajj as a result of which 6,100 of our compatriots have left for Saudi Arabia in order to perform the Hajj ceremony. We wish them a holy and [word indistinct] Hajj from Almighty God.

Compatriots who are away from home! Today, when the people of Afghanistan struggle for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy and are playing a great part in running the state, you are missed among your sisters and brothers.

Come to your proud country, taking inspiration from the philosophy of Id. The Republic of Afghanistan and your compatriot brothers have prepared all the resources for welcoming you and for continuing your peaceful life.

Mosques, land, factories and each corner of Afghanistan is awaiting your return. We have full confidence that we, the Afghan people, will overcome all the difficulties in ensuring peace, God willing, and will become victorious on this path, based on God's instruction, which says, victory comes from God and conquer shortly. [as heard]

20 Killed, 25 Injured in Missile Attacks on Kabul

LD1507133488 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, 15 Jul (BAKHTAR)—This morning criminal extremists once again shed the blood of a number of our innocent compatriots in their desire to quench their warmongering and inhuman thirst.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that the criminal extremists at around 0540 today, targeted their missiles on the third, fourth, fifth, and seventh wards of Kabul City. As a result of this criminal action, according to reports so far received, 20 of our compatriots were martyred and another 25 persons seriously injured.

As a result of this shameful action a number of homes of our compatriots were also destroyed.

The report adds that those injured in this incident were taken to the hospital, where they are now in intensive care.

Press Conference on Attacks

LD1607231188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Domestic and foreign journalists attended a press conference held today at the Foreign Ministry press center in connection with the recent crime of the extremists who, by firing surface-to-surface missiles, martyred 20 of our innocent compatriots, injured 25 more, and caused a great deal of damage.

According to a BIA military section report, Major General (Sayfullah), Kabul City People's Militia commander; Brigadier General ('Abdul Khaleq), [word indistinct] of the Kabul garrison; ('Abdul Khaleq), a representative of the Ministry of State Security; and (Muhammad Nabi Amani), a representative of the Foreign Ministry, replied to journalists' questions at the news conference.

In reply to a question, Maj Gen (Sayfullah) said: During the current month the extremists have fired 124 rocket-propelled projectiles at the residential areas of Kabul City, resulting in 76 of our compatriots, including women, children and old men, being martyred, and 91 others being injured. The extremists also caused damage costing millions of afghanis by firing missiles—which had been brought into the country—and fired from the suburbs of Kabul at residential areas.

In reply to another question, Brig Gen ('Abdul Khaleq), [word indistinct] of Kabul garrison, said: As the extremists do not have the capability to face our Armed Forces, they carry out inhumane and criminal acts such as firing missiles. The missiles targeted on Kabul are being fired from 22-30 km outside the city. They have Egyptian markings. One found after the Friday, 15 July, attack in Ward 7 of Kabul City was made in Egypt. The recent missile attack came from 22 km south of Kabul City.

The Foreign Ministry representative, in reply to a question, said: The Republic of Afghanistan, in full observation of the provisions of the Geneva accords, has specified the Pakistan regime's violation of the Geneva accords in 49 official memorandums to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan, Pakistan]. These violation have been clearly stated, citing the place, the ways of violation, the Pakistani experts assistance in transferring arms and ammunition inside Afghanistan's territory, and noting the date of (?its) entry. The foreign ministry has enough evidence, and has mentioned to UNGOMAP in the official memorandums that recently, since the signing of the Geneva accords, a large amount of surface-to-surface missiles have been brought into the Republic of Afghanistan, via Pakistan, to be fired at residential areas in the cities.

The [word indistinct] of Kabul garrison, in reply to a question, said that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have great combat potential, and are able to foil the attacks of the extremists who want to disrupt the peaceful life of our people. Extensive security measures have been taken to ensure this.

Soviet Troops Counterattack

BK1707033088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0240 GMT 17 Jul 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, July 17 (AFP)—Soviet forces have attacked Afghan rebels south of Kabul who launched sporadic rocket attacks on the capital from their bases 10 kilometers (six miles) away, diplomatic sources here said.

The counter-attack launched in the past few days is one of very few operations directly involving Soviet troops since the Red Army began its withdrawal from Afghanistan two months ago, the sources said.

Soviet troops have intervened to push back mujahidin groups surrounding Mohammad Agha city in Lowgar Province and Meydan Shahr, the capital of Vardak Province, which the rebels occupied for 24 hours on June 24.

Casualties have been heavy on both sides, the sources said.

Afghan rebel bases to the south, southeast and southwest of Kabul directly threaten the capital, the sources said.

A large mujahidin group is also now operating in Parvan Province north of Kabul, mujahidin sources said.

The official Soviet news agency, TASS, reported July 10 that mujahidin groups armed with U.S. ground-to-air Stinger missiles had arrived north of Kabul and were preparing to attack the airport.

Mujahidin groups have received large shipments of heavy arms, including rockets with a range up to 18 kilometers (11 miles) and anti-tank missiles, a European traveller recently returned from Nangarhar Province east of Kabul told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mujahidin pressure on Kabul has been intensifying over the past two weeks, with 20 people killed and 34 injured Friday in rocket fire on the capital's Random District, TASS said.

Earlier this month, a car bomb killed 18 in Kabul and about 15 rockets fell on the capital, diplomatic sources said. An explosion on July 6 near a Soviet military hospital left 20 dead and 40 injured, mujahidin sources said.

TASS has given more coverage in the past two weeks than either the official Afghan news agency BAKHTAR or Radio Kabul to rocket attacks on the capital, emphasizing the civilian deaths, diplomats said.

It also rejected "false rumours" that the rockets that hit the capital Friday were fired by Soviet forces.

Rockets fired from a 10-kilometer (six-mile) range outside Kabul often shower Kabul without hitting military targets, experts said.

The mujahidin, who are not yet able to take the capital, are counting on the psychological effects the bombing will have, they said.

The guerrillas have distributed leaflets urging the Kabul population to cooperate with rebel forces, resistance sources say.

The leaflets also report defections by Afghan soldiers and militiamen and differences within Kabul's military command and the governing communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Fighting is continuing in Nangarhar Province, west of the Afghan Army stronghold of Jalalabad and not far from Sarowbi, where electricity generating stations provide power for the capital.

Clashes also continue in Qandahar, Afghanistan's second-largest city, and are expected to intensify in coming weeks there and around Spin Buldak in Qandahar Province, a few kilometers (miles) from the Pakistani border, diplomatic and mujahidin sources said.

After attempts to capture Spin Buldak in June, Afghan rebels received reinforcements and more equipment and are preparing a fresh attack, they said.

Government Blamed for Attacks

BK1707140688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 17 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance's seven-party alliance Sunday accused the Kabul government of carrying out recent bomb attacks in the city and other parts of the country that have claimed dozens of civilian lives.

The "puppet" Afghan regime was "committing all these atrocious deeds to wipe out the Afghan people and to tarnish the image of the mujahidin," the Supreme Council of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin said in a communique issued from its headquarters in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar.

"The new strategy of bomb blasts in crowded bazaars and other places of congregation inside Afghanistan is intended to place the onus of all these dastardly deeds on the mujahidin," it said.

Kabul's governing People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan who "brought the Soviets to commit massacre and untold atrocities on the innocent population of Afghanistan, have now resorted to...destroy and annihilate the Afghan nation," the communique said.

Citing differences between the party's Khalq and Parcham factions, the alliance said it was "not inconceivable that these two opposing groups will also resort to bombing of government buildings and installations and then placing all blame on the mujahidin."

"But we would like to categorically state that the mujahidin have never resorted to the destruction and depradation of Afghanistan and will not do so in future," it said.

A series of car bomb attacks in Kabul and in eastern Jalalabad town killed dozens of people, mostly civilians, in the second week of July.

Bangladesh

SAARC Convention on Terrorism Ratified

BK1607041388 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Bangladesh has ratified the SAARC regional convention on suppression of terrorism. Reports from Kathmandu say the convention was signed by SAARC foreign ministers at the third SAARC summit meeting held in the Nepalese capital in November last.

The convention notes that unlawful seizure of aircraft, murder, manslaughter, hostage taking, explosives, and dangerous substances are regarded as terrorism. [sentence as heard] It demands of the seven member-countries to assist and cooperate with each other in implementing the convention.

Meanwhile, the meeting of the SAARC group of experts on the study of the causes and [word indistinct] of natural disasters and the protection and preservation of the environment ended in Kathmandu yesterday.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Departs Dhaka 15 Jul

BK1607034688 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister of Cyprus Yeoryios Iakovou has left Dhaka at the end of 2-day visit to Bangladesh. He was seen off at the airport yesterday evening by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

Mr Iakovou, who arrived in the capital on Thursday, held talks with Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury on bilateral and international issues. Mr Iakovou's visit was the first by a Cyprus foreign minister to this country.

Delhi Reports Split in Opposition Party

BK1707084288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] The Bangladesh National Party, a leading opposition party, has split. The dissidents have formed a rival faction challenging the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia.

Speaking to newsmen in Dhaka yesterday, the leader of the dissidents, Mr Obaidur Rahman, said he has formed a new central committee. Mr Rahman was dismissed as party secretary general last night, following infighting.

India

Spokesman Denies 23 Soldiers Killed in Sri Lanka

BK1607145588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman has denied reports appearing in a section of the press that 23 soldiers of the peacekeeping force [PKF] were killed when their convoy blew up in a landmine blast southwest of Kilinochchi in Sri Lanka yesterday.

The spokesman also dismissed the LTTE claim that they had ambushed the convoy. He said only two PKF soldiers were killed and some wounded. The PKF recovered one mortar and a machinegun from Manpai area in the Jaffna Peninsula. In an encounter with LTTE in Vavuniya sector one militant was killed and two injured.

Bombing, Violence in Darjeeling Areas Noted

BK1507124488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] In West Bengal, some reports of violence were received from the Darjeeling hill areas in the last 24 hours. Two groups of militants clashed last night in Kalimpong Town. One person was injured.

One bomb exploded in the town, but there was no report of any casualty or damage. In another incident, some miscreants set on fire one house in Jorbanglo police station area.

The situation in Darjeeling and Kurseong is peaceful.

Agreement on Darjeeling Expected by End of July

BK1607093888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] An agreement to solve the Darjeeling hill area problem is likely to be finalized in the last week of this month. This emerged from the talks between the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, in New Delhi last night.

Both expressed satisfaction over the improvement in the law and order situation in the area. The home minister appreciated the efforts of the West Bengal government and the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leadership in easing tension. Mr Basu informed that the release of GNLF activists will continue.

AIR correspondent understands that the GNLF leader, Mr Subhash Ghisingh, is expected in the capital early next week to brief the home minister. This will be followed by a tripartite meeting to iron out any differences over the settlement. As reported earlier, the GNLF has already endorsed the hill council proposal.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Said Joining With Leftists

BK1607132888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, says his government has received reports that some Punjab terrorists are joining hands with Naxalite elements in the tribal districts of Vidharba. Speaking at Pune today, he said a lot of arms and ammunition are being pumped into Chandrapur, (Gharchiroli), and Kinwat areas which are a hotbed of Naxalite activity.

Mr Pawar said the Naxalite activities in the tribal areas adjoining Andhra Pradesh need to be tackled on both social and administrative levels.

Violence Continues in Punjab Districts

3 Policemen Injured

BK1607051088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, two persons, including a police ASI [assistant subinspector], were killed and three policemen were injured in separate incidents of terrorist activity last night.

In Ferozepore District, ASI Gurcharan Singh was killed and his jeep driver seriously injured when terrorists ambushed a police patrolling party near (Phera Ren). The terrorists, however, fled when other policemen took up positions.

In Haryana, two terrorists were killed by the police near Baldev Nagar in Ambala City last night. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that the terrorists were traveling in a truck. The encounter with the police took place near Baldev Nagar railway crossing. Large quantity of ammunition was seized.

'Terrorists' Kill 11

BK1707162888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons have been killed in terrorist attacks since last night. Four persons were killed and two injured, when terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at Sherpur Chowk in Jagraon town of Ludhiana District.

Six persons were killed in Amritsar District in three separate incidents and one person was gunned down in Ropar District.

Three terrorists and a police inspector were killed in an encounter in Chandigarh early this morning. Two police officers were also injured in the encounter which took place when a police party raided a house where terrorists were hiding. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the terrorist hideout.

The inspector general of Chandigarh police said one of the killed terrorists has been identified as Dirender Pal Singh, who was involved in a number of crimes. He said a fourth accomplice managed to escape.

President Returns From Visit to USSR, Mongolia

BK1607155688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, returned to New Delhi this evening after an 11-day visit to the Soviet Union and Mongolia. The vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, and several central ministers received him at the airport.

Congress-I Wins Kashmir Parliamentary Election

BK1807095088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0930 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] The Congress-I candidate, Mr Mohammad Ayub Khan, has been elected from the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir. He defeated his nearest Panthers Party rival, Mr Bhim Singh, by over 2,300 votes.

The result was announced by the returning officer, Mr S.P. Kazal, after the completion of the counting of votes of 14 polling stations. Repolling for these polling stations was held on Tuesday [12 July].

Iran

Government Announces Acceptance of UN Resolution

Message to Perez de Cuellar

LD1807102488 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—In a message to the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today the Islamic Republic announced it appreciates Perez de Cuellar's efforts and accepts the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on Iraq-Iran war "in the interest of security on the basis of justice."

The message to the UN secretary general also acknowledged Perez de Cuellar's efforts taken so far for a peaceful end to the Iraq-Iran war.

The General Command of the Armed Forces in a statement here Monday said that the UN Resolution 598 has been accepted by Iran. The following is the text of the statement.

"The great Iranian nation who rose in the name of God and for the establishment of justice knew from the beginning that the world-plunderers will not tolerate its justice seeking outcries.

"The day the oppressive regime of Iraq violated Iran's territory, the nation fully realised that the savage aggression was the result of an international plot to damage the Islamic Revolution which has shed lights of hope in the hearts of all freedom loving Muslims and the oppressed masses of the world.

"The Iranian nation entered this righteous path being fully aware of the fact that in a world fraught with blasphemy and injustice it has no support save the almighty, and that in the face of the modern arms of the enemies of humanity it has no weapon but that of faith and revolutionary will to fall back on.

"The Iranian nation under the liberating leadership of Imam Khomeyni sees the glory of the early days of Islam reflected on its own liberative revolution and knows well how the revolution of the early days of Islam left behind storm of plots and deceits and went through ups and down. However, it resisted and became victorious and this nation with such a faith and enthusiasm has no doubt in its final victory, though the enemies used the most dastard policies against it.

"The revolutionary people of Iran by following the imam think of nothing put the obligations dictated by Allah and under different conditions will show commitment to the same duties which are viewed by the imam and safeguard Islam and the Muslim land.

"Today new conditions have been created which call for adoption of new stances in order to continue the sacred defence and protect Islam and the Islamic Revolution.

"Although the enemies of Islam have not for a moment stopped their plots against the Islamic Revolution, recently as the blows of Muslim combatants of Iran on the battered body of Iraq became more deadly the scope of plots became wider. The world arrogance as well as the reactionaries came to help Iraq with all their power. In order to damage the revolution they did not spare any criminal act and tried to uphold the Baghdad regime through their massive military, financial, political, and propaganda assistance, and armed the Iraqi Army with massive weapons and aids for fresh aggressions and continued crimes.

Iraq's extensive use of chemical weapons especially in its recent movements on the battlefields, coupled with silence of international organizations, is another sign of this dangerous international plot.

Today, the whole reactionary and arrogant worlds are trying to portray our enemy which has committed unprecedented crimes in the history of the world as a peace loving regime and on the contrary misportray our innocent and resistant nation which has always sought, and still is seeking to thwart the aggression as warmongering Muslims before world public opinion.

In addition, they (arrogant and reactionary worlds) put utmost pressure on Iran and threaten the Iranian nation. Under such circumstances, it is natural for us to try to expose the aggressor and prevent the enemies of Islam and those who are against the independence of nations from taking initiative in international scenes.

The announcement of the Islamic Republic's new stands to U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar is aimed at implementing this new policy.

It is beyond question that defending Islam and acting bravely is not an act peculiar only to the battlefields but that adoption of new methods which can tip the balance to the advantage of Islam and foil enemy plots speaks for courage in its own right.

At this crucial juncture, the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters by sending its best regards to the brave and noble nation of Iran and paying its glowing tribute to the martyrs of the Iraqi-imposed war whose blood is the guarantor of the victory and dignity of the Islamic Republic, deems it necessary to stress the following points:

1—In continuation of the previous statements released by the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters we once again urge the Iranian people to man the war fronts to confront enemies' aggressive nature and foil their criminal acts. Our brave military commanders are still doing all within their power to continue safeguarding the Islamic Revolution. All Muslim combatants deployed on the war fronts are prepared to respond to any aggression and movement of the enemy. All people able to take up arms by manning the battlefields should frustrate the enemy in its aggressions.

2—What has happened is expedient by divine assignment. Those whom the U.S. has always pinned hopes on to take the power so that it (U.S.) could redominate the country and (those) who have always acted as Washington's and Saddam's mouthpiece in favoring a compromise with Baghdad should never think that their sinister plots has materialized because what is happening is aimed at safeguarding the Islamic ideals and defending the revolution which not only ousted the shah's regime and the U.S. but also replaced the tyrannical regime with the rule of Islam.

3—The great leadership of Imam Khomeyni who has successfully led the Islamic Revolution even in the most crucial juncture is still the most reliable shelter for the freedom loving people of Iran whose hearts have been enlightened by such a leadership. The noble people of Iran surrender to the almighty's will which is based on the victory of the oppressed over the blasphemy and arrogance.

General Command Statement

LD1807121888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1034 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Statement issued by the General Command Headquarters on the official position of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to UN Resolution No 598]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The esteemed Iranian nation, which rose up in the name of God and for the establishment of justice, knew from the first day that the materialist bullies and the cannibal [word indistinct] would not endure its cry for justice. On that day when the cruel regime ruling Iraq invaded the territory of the Islamic homeland, our nation understood very well that this savage aggression was a result of an international conspiracy to inflict blows against a revolution which had brought a ray of light to the heart of all free-thinking Muslims and to all suffering, oppressed people.

Our nation began on that dangerous road in full knowledge that in a world of blasphemy, cruelty, and corruption there is no shelter other than God's grace, and that in the face of the advanced weapons of mankind they have no weapon other than faith in justice and revolutionary will. Our nation, which with the blessing of the saving grace of the imam of the ummah's leadership again sees the splendor of the early days of Islam's epic mirrored in its own liberating revolution, knows what the Islamic Revolution can be like.

The storm of conspiracies and dastardly acts has passed. The nation put behind itself the peaks and troughs and meekly resisted, and it became victorious. And this nation, with that faith and that sentiment, has no doubts about its ultimate victory, even though its enemies may use the most dastardly methods against it. Following its esteemed imam our revolutionary nation thinks only of its divine duty and, in different circumstances and situations, shows allegiance to that same duty which is desired by the imam and is the guarantor of the interest of Islam and of maintaining the Islamic nation.

Today, new circumstances have arisen in which the continuation of the holy defense and the struggle for the preservation of Islam and of the Islamic revolution demand the adoption of a new position. Even though Islam's enemies have continally conspired against the revolution, recently, to the same extent that the blows on the spent body of the Iraqi aggressor army by the combative children of Islam became more effective, there was an increase in the scale of shameful conspiracies. Arrogance and reaction came to the aid of Saddam with all their strength and disgracefully began to commit any crime in order to inflict blows on the revolution. With a flood of military, financial, and political-propaganda assistance, they sought to keep Saddam's regime on its feet and to equip the Iraqi army for further aggressions and greater crimes with a great number of weapons and assistance.

The Saddam regime's extensive and unprecedented use of chemical weapons, particularly in recent operations, accompanied by the silence of international circles, was another manifestation of that dangerous international conspiracy.

Today, the entire world of arrogance and reaction are trying to put a deceptive peace-loving mask on the face of our aggressor enemy, whose crimes are unprecedented in history, and to portray as a warmonger to the world and even to Muslims, our innocent and resistant nation whose only aim has been to repel aggression. On the other hand, they are trying to threaten this country and nation with pressure from all sides.

It is natural that in such circumstance we will try to remove the mask of deception from the aggressor's face and to take the international initiative out of the hands of the enemies of Islam and of the independence of nations. The declaration of a new position by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN secretary general is made with the aim of implementing that new policy.

Valor and the defense of Islam are not always manifest in the battlefields. The adoption of new methods to change the situation in Islam's favor and to foil plots is another sign of bravery.

At these sensitive times, while once again paying its respects to the brave people of Iran and honoring the memory of the epic-making martyrs of the imposed war whose pure blood guarantees victory and glory for the Islamic Revolution, the General Command Headquarters deems it necessary to affirm the following points:

1. Pursuant to the previous statements of the General Command Headquarters we once again announce that the battlefronts should be filled with fighting forces because it is with the support at the battlefronts of the steadfast fighting forces that the aggressive nature and crimes of the enemies can be confronted. The warrior military commanders are still determined to deploy all their capabilities and ideas in order to strengthen the war effort, as well as of being present at the arena of the scared defense of the Islamic Revolution and safeguarding the Islamic Republic. The fighters on the battlefronts also are constantly ready to respond to acts of aggression and provocations by the aggressor enemy. All those who are able to bear arms must strive—by being present at the battlefronts—to dissuade the enemies from continuing aggression and crimes.

2. What has occurred is in accordance with divine duty. Those through whose reign the United States dreamed of ruling Iran again, who with one voice and one mind have supported the United States and Saddam, proposed to approach the aggressive regime in Iraq for reconciliation while making efforts to weaken the national will to defend the Islamic revolution, should not believe that they have already achieved their evil objective. What is now happening will preserve Islamic ideals and will serve to defend the same revolution which drove out the United States and the treacherous shah by bringing Islam to power.

The rule of Islam and the presence of the people has left no path for the return of the criminal arrogant powers and has also left no room for the supporters of the United States and the promoters of reconciliation with the enemies of the nation to have a popular base among the people.

3. The wise leadership by his excellency the imam, whose firm and glorious guidance continues at the most turbulent moments and arenas, is the most secure sanctury for the free nation whose heart is illuminated with the light of the rule of jurisconsult. The pride of being the vanguard of unstinting struggle against the arrogant powers and relying on the divine help will be preserved for the imam and for our ummah. The great nation of Iran obeys the will of the exalted one, and the will of God has been in favor of absolute victory by the rightful oppressed in the face of infidels and arrogant powers.

[Signed] The General Command Headquarters, 18 July 1988

'Text' of Khamene'i Letter to UN

LD1807160288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1507 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] United Nations, July 18 (KUNA)—Following is the text of the letter which Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i sent Sunday night to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announcing his country's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 on the Gulf war.

The text was circulated here Monday:

"Excellency, please accept my warm greetings with best wishes for your excellency's success in efforts to establish peace and justice.

"As you are well-aware, the fire of the wars which was started by the Iraqi regime on 22 September 1980 through and [as received] aggression against the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran has now gained unprecedented dimensions, bringing other countries into war and even engulfing innocent civilians.

"The killing of 290 innocent human beings, caused by the shooting down of an Airbus aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran by one of American warships in the Persian Gulf is a clear manifestations of this contention.

"Under these circumstances, Your Excellency's efforts for the implementation of Resolution 598 is of particular importance. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always provided you with its assistance and support to achieve this objective. In this context, we have decided to officially declare, that the Islamic Republic of Iran—

because of the importance it attaches to saving the lives of human beings and the establishment of justice and regional and international peace and security—accepts Security Council 598 [as received].

"We hope that the official declaration of this position by the Islamic Republic of Iran would assist you in continuing your efforts which has always received our support and appreciation."

UN Chief on Khamene'i Letter

LD1807142988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1340 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] New York, July 18 (KUNA)—Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday Iran has "officially and unconditionally" accepted Resolution 598, calling for a negotiated peace between Iraq and Iran.

Perez de Cuellar told KUNA and other reporters he was informed of the Iranian position by President 'Ali Khamene'i Sunday night.

"It couldn't have come from a more official source," Perez de Cuellar said.

Asked whether any conditions were attached to the acceptance of Resolution 598, Perez de Cuellar said: "There were none."

The decision by the 15 council members was adopted unanimously on July 20, 1987. It calls for an immediate cease fire between the two countries that have been at war since September 1980, and the withdrawal of forces behind internationally recognised bounderies as a first step towards a comprehensive solution.

"They have officially declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran accepts Resolution 598 and it is an acceptance which doesn't refer to any conditions," he said.

"Previously Iran has tacitly accepted the resolution, now they say 'we officially accept the resolution'", the secretary-general said upon his arrival at the Secretariat building.

He said he believes that the Iranian announcement clears the way for a cease-fire and that he has discussed this with Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Mahallati Sunday night.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has returned to Tehran over the weekend, following his participation in two days of council meetings on the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by the United States. The debate was to continue later in the day.

Asked it the Iranians still insist on condemnation of Iraq for starting the war—a claim Baghdad disputes—the secretary general said: "There is no reference in the letter. It is a factual letter."

Perez de Cuellar said he would meet later in the day to discuss the new development with the members of the Council who will continue debate on the Airbus incident of July 3 that killed 290 passengers.

He said Khamene'i told him in the letter the shooting down of the plane was one more evidence of the loss of innocent lives and the dangers of "foreign additional security", and for that reason they decided to declare that they have accepted the resolution."

Perez de Cuellar did not rule out any U.N. peacekeeping role in the area once a cease-fire and the withdrawal of forces have been accomplished.

Asked if he would discuss a time-table for the implementation of the resolution, he said: "Of course. If you want my opinion I will start at 12 noon."

Further Reportage, Comment on Airbus Incident

Velayati's 'Softened' Position

LD1507191388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1819 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] New York, July 15 (KUNA)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Friday backed away from his country's previous insistance on full U.N. Security Council condemnation of the United States for downing an Iranian airliner.

The iranian Airbus was hit July 3 several minutes after takeoff by an American missile in the Arabian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

When asked at a news conference if Iran would be satisfied with the wording used in a statement Thursday in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) deploring the use of weapons against a civilian aircraft, Velayati responded: "Of course, that is part of the decision that could be taken."

Iran came to the council for the first time in eight years, seeking condemnation of the United States for the incident which it called a "barbaric crime" that, according to the evidence, could not have been a mistake.

Velayati made clear, however, that he did not consider U.S. Vice President George Bush's expression of regret and sympathy for the families of the victims acceptance of responsibility."

Iran also appeared to have softened its stance of previous charges that the shooting down of the plane by the USS Vincennes was an act of "premeditated murder."

Although he referred in his lengthy speech before the Security Council to "a series of premeditated acts of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran", there was no reference to the term in connection with the downing of the Airbus.

For the United States and some of her allies in the council, the charge of premeditation would be totally unacceptable and invite certain vetoes by the U.S., Britain and possibly France.

Those three countries along with China and the Soviet Union have the right of veto in the 15-nation council.

By dropping the charge that the U.S. shot down the plane, knowing it was a civilian, diplomats say Iran may be seeking to reopen a diplomatic dialogue with the U.S.

But Velayati showed confusion at the news conference on this point. When asked if he still believed the destruction of the plane was premeditated, he said: "The evidence shows that."

Diplomats said there was virtually no support in the council for condemnation of the United States, and that Iran might have trouble lining up even the nine votes necessary for a majority.

Recognising the political reality but eager not to return home empty-handed, Iran agreed Thursday to the unusual move of letting the president of the council draft a text in consultation with the other members. This text would have to be accepted by all members.

As a result, one official said, work on the text could take several days, and it was unclear whether it would take the form of a resolution or a less forceful statement issued by the president, currently Paolo Nogueria Batista of Brazil.

In an opening statement, Velayati told reporters U.S. Vice President George Bush's argument of self-defence in his address to the council Thursday was "not acceptable to the common sense."

"How is it possible that a very sophisticated warship, which is equipped with advanced electronic equipment, to shoot down and kill 290 passengers and crew," he asked. [sentence as received]

"In our view, a responsible government under such circumstances should bear the responsibility of downing the jetliner, and also realistically adopt decisions to prevent the repetition of such tragic incidents," he said.

Velayati said the U.S. in the past two weeks hasn't given any guarantees it would not repeat such "crime" and the U.S. has, therefore, not acted as a responsible government.

Offering compensation to the families of the victims, as the U.S. has done, he said, was a "cover-up" and an effort by the United States to reduce their responsibility.

He said the council must declare the United States responsible for the tragedy, and also take measures and decisions to guarantee the safety of civil navigation.

Velayati's UN News Conference

LD1607210288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, said in a press conference at the United Nations on Friday: Instead of accepting the responsibility for shooting down the Iranian passenger plane, the U.S. Government has resorted to excuses.

He stressed: The United States must accept full responsibility for this attack, which caused the deaths of 290 innocent people.

He said that he asked the United Nations to condemn the U.S. actions and prevent the recurrence of such a tragedy, by taking certain measures.

He welcomed ICAO's decision to send a delegation to investigate the disaster. He said: We believe that the sending of such a delegation should be part of the Security Council decision on the matter.

In connection with the Iran-Iraq war, he said he supports the secretary general's proposal.

Velayati Interviewed on Session

LD1707221088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent 17 July in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who went to New York to participate in the Security Council session, returned to Tehran Sunday evening. He talked with our correspondent on his arrival and in an interview discussed the results of his participation in the session. We invite you to listen to this interview:

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, you attended the UN Security Council session in order to outline the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the downing of an Iranian aircraft by the United States in the Persian Gulf. Please tell us about the results of this trip.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As you noted, an Iranian passenger aircraft was the target of U.S. military aggression and shot down with some 290 passengers aboard. This was one of the biggest civil air disasters in history. The United States, being the main culprit and completely responsible for this calamity, wanted to portray it to the world as accidental. The U.S. President, 2 days after the incident, said in the U.S. Senate that the issue is closed, that they want to close the issue. It is not in U.S. interests to have this crime of theirs continue to be discussed before the eyes of the world.

The Islamic Republic decided to raise this issue in international circles and bring it to world public opinion in order to let international organizations judge the issue and base their verdict on justice. Therefore, the issue was raised in the ICAO and we also complained to the Security Council, which held a special session at our request. The session was supposed to be held on Tuesday. As a result of a request by the Brazilian council president, the session was delayed until Thursday. I was the first speaker.

The United States was trying to play down the importance of the issue and end it. However, when they realized the issue had been brought to the international arena by the Islamic Republic, in contrast with their previous position they attended the Security Council session with the highest ranking delegation by sending the second highest ranking U.S. Government official to the session to respond to the issues raised by the Islamic Republic. The entire world understood the real issue. Our reasons for accusing the United States of being the main cause in the calamity were heard and accepted by the world. The reflection of this in the international mass media makes it clear the the people of the world and public opinion now fully realize that the real culprit in the issue is the United States.

What the U.S. vice president said in his reply in no way answered us. He discussed general issues and everyone heard them. Several UN members who are not members of the Security Council made formal requests to address the council expressing their opinion about the tragedy. Almost all of the Security Council's members gave speeches. Some of them, such as the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, officially condemned the United States for this act. Both these countries sought the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf. The Chinese delegate announced that maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of the region's countries.

The debate continues, and tomorrow the Security Council will meet again. The rest of those who have registered their names will speak.

In reality, we have by this act put the Security Council through a major historical test to see whether they move along the path of justice or if they are under the influence of the great powers, and therefore unable to do so. In any case, as I stated at the beginning of this trip, in light of the previous positions of the Security Council, we have been and still are pessimistic that the council would take steps in a just manner. However, our disappointment in the Security Council will not ease the burden on us. We must attend international assemblies and forums, and express our righteous claims.

Commentary Assails Bush Speech

NC1607080388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Commentary by Central News Unit research group]

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council met on Thursday to debate and discuss and then make some decisions on the downing of the Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf waters. The discussions began with the speech by our country's foreign minister, Mr Velayati. Later, U.S. Vice President George Bush spoke in response in an attempt to justify Washington's criminal act, once again stressing Washington's earlier position affirming the unintentional and defensive nature of the action by the commander of the "Vincennes." In order to divert public opinion and to exert pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, he attributed the occurrence of such an incident to the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war.

All the above occured in spite of Mr Velayati's presentation of evidence and numerous facts proving that a passenger plane is easily distinguishable from a jet-fighter. He therefore called upon the council to categorically condemn this criminal act by Washington. [passage omitted]

Mr Bush, Reagan's vice president and the sole nominee of the Republicans, was indeed unable to answer the concrete and adduced remarks by our country's foreign minister. He said that most of the details behind the incident have not yet surfaced and that all the facts should be brought to light as soon as possible. However, one thing is clear, he said, and that is that the "Vincennes" acted in self-defense. [passage omitted]

The presence of the U.S. vice president at the UN Security Council is an unprecedented move and, in effect, indicates that the Reagan government has rallied all its efforts to counter international pressure and the hatred and loathing of the people of the world by sending a high-level official to the session. In doing so, it is striving to portray the downing of a passenger plane and killing of innocent and defenseless citizens as a tragic incident and of immense importance from Washington's point of view. Second, in view of the U.S. vice president's position in the U.S. Administration, Washington hoped the possibility of its being condemned would be reduced to the minimum.

However, despite all these considerations, George Bush's impotence in refuting the adduced and solid statements of our country's foreign minister and his stilted efforts to link the downing of the Airbus with the continuation of the imposed war and to ignore the connection between the prolongation of the war with the U.S. forces' extensive presence in the Persian Gulf have once again proved that the recent expression of sympathy by the U.S.

authorities and their widespread propaganda regarding compensation payments are merely for the purposes of diverting public opinion from Washington's belligerent policy.

The Washington echelons are well aware of the fact that the U.S. forces' presence in the Persian Gulf is not for purposes of ensuring the safety of the international waterway or for the protection of commercial vessels. It was planned and implemented only to support the Iraqi regime and intensify military and economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was also emphasized in the report by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and in the overt remarks made by Reagan's opponents in the U.S. Congress.

The past year's experiences have shown that, on the average, tension and insecurity in the Persian Gulf have doubled in the last year since the increased number of U.S. forces into this international waterway. In addition, this tension and insecurity have now affected air routes, endangering the safety of civilian and passenger planes just as in the recent case of the Iranian Airbus. The continuation of such tension can gradually take the region toward a widespread all-encompassing confrontation and ignite a multilateral war in this sensitive region.

Despite such events, attempts are still being made to not accept the facts and to ignore the real reason for tension and insecurity in the Persian Gulf and for the destruction of an Iranian passenger plane. Iran is being pointed our as the party to blame for the downing of the passenger plane in a deliberate attempt to turn a blind eye to the reason for the extensive presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and to its undeniable consequences.

Speech Termed 'Publicity Stunt'

LD1607090488 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 16, IRNA—The appearance of Vice-President George Bush at the Security Council debate on the downing of an Iranian Airbus is seen as more to do with his bid to become the next U.S. president than any regret Washington has over the matter.

The British press Friday unanimously saw Bush's attendance at the U.N. as a publicity stunt to further his personal ambitions and follows Washington's desperate move to gain support by back-tracking on its original declaration not to pay reparations to the victims relatives.

President Reagan is also set to meet U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar over the long-outstanding U.S. debts in another move that is seen linked with the continuing debate Friday. Bush in his 25-minute speech refused to express any real gravity on the U.S. belligerence in the Persian Gulf that killed 290 innocent passengers and the London INDEPENDENT saw his appearance as "clearly designed to increase his public profile."

Likewise THE TIMES newspaper said he was seizing the chance to "take the national stage when his presidential opponent Mr Michael Dukakis has been benefitting more from the spotlight."

For the first time in weeks, it said, the vice-president entered the "political limelight" and was seen responding angrily to charges that the U.S. had committed a "cold-blooded atrocity against humanity."

The London GUARDIAN cast him as trying to play to the public gallery as a way to remind the world and chiefly his domestic audience that he is an "international statesman" by refusing to apologise. "If the speech was not eloquent or impassioned, it sounded suitably presidential," it said.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH believed Bush welcomed the debate as a means of trying to present himself as the Republican standard-bearer and back in the spotlight at a time when his rival Democrats had been dominating the news.

In the normal course of events, US Ambassador to the U.N. Vernon Walters would have handled the American case, but Bush "hastily planned" his trip to present what was an "unprecedented intervention in a Security Council debate by a vice-president."

THE DAILY EXPRESS believed that he was out to score points and his timing was "perfect" when Dukakis was seen in hot water for not telling Jesse Jackson he had been overlooked as his running mate.

The American press also supported the supposition that Bush was unscrupulously using the tragedy to further his political ambition. THE WASHINGTON POST declared his intentions were to "underscore his diplomatic experience and campaign theme."

ICAO Condemns Incident

LD1507190388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The ICAO Central Council, after 2 days of discussions at Iran's request about the U.S. Navy's missile attack on the Iran Air passenger plane, issued a resolution condemning the U.S. action.

The resolution, which was published in Montreal after the conclusion of the session, states: A committee has been set up to investigate the incident. After reviewing the specifics of the incident, it will submit its report to the the ICAO general meeting in September, so that a fundamental stand can be taken.

In its statement, ICAO condemns the use of weapons or force against passenger planes. The council expressed its deepest sympathies and condolences to the Iranian Government and the families of the victims of this sad incident. It called on all world governments to refrain from using weapons against civilian planes and prevent the endangering of civilian airlines in the region.

The council also called for preventive measures to avoid the recurrence of similar incidents in the future. [passage omitted]

After the session, Sirus Naseri, the Iranian envoy to the UN European Office and spokesman of the Iranian delegation, said in an interview with the Voice and Vision of Iran: The important point in the ICAO Central Council decision is that the council showed that the U.S. President, who declared the case closed, is wrong, that the investigation has just started.

He said: We have not reached the stage where a person who commits a crime can close the case himself.

He added: Another point is that the council has condemned the use of force against any [passenger] plane, in any circumstances. It has also condemned the United States' action. [passage omitted]

UK Position 'Modified'

LD1607190188 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 16, IRNA—U.S. claims about its shooting down of an Iranian Airbus have received a further jolt with the release of flight tapes by Iran.

Transcripts of radio exchanges made with the passenger plane have been made public at the U.N. and according to reports from New York, they disprove American allegations that the Airbus was descending as if to attack and was not sending normal commercial radar signals.

The American contentions have been at the heart of its cover-up of shooting down the plane and killing all 290 on board and although the Pentagon says that it wishes to verify the tapes, the disclosure can only be a further humiliation to the U.S.

The transcripts are seen as boosting Iran's moral position at the Security Council, which the British media has come to recognise, aimed at forcing the U.S. to drop its arrogant stance and accept full responsibility for its crime.

To this end the stance of Britain has seemed to have modified, if only ambiguously, from being the only country to have given the U.S. unqualified support.

U.K. representative at the U.N. John Birch said that London now reserved judgment while awaiting the result of further inquiries but insisted it would have not happened if it was not for the continuation of Iraq's war against Iran.

He apparently neglected to mention that it certainly could not have happened if the U.S. had not been in the Persian Gulf and acted so belligerently.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's record speech at the U.N. last Thursday included the whole transcript of radio communication between IR655 [as received] and the Bandar-e 'Abbas and Dubayy airports.

Velayati in his speech also took up each and every American claim to justify their unmanly crime and brilliantly exposed their falsity to the Security Council.

10 More Bodies Recovered

LD1707174088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, with the discovery of the bodies of 10 more martyrs of the Iranian passenger airliner shot down over the Persian Gulf by the U.S. fleet, the number of bodies of victims recovered so far has reached 182. [figure as heard]

According to this report, the bodies of 10 other victims of the U.S. crime, including two women and eight men, were discovered by fishermen and popular forces of Bandar-e Lengeh, on the coasts of that port, during the past 2 days. They were transferred to Bandar-e 'Abbas, and then to Tehran, for identification. Also, pieces of the wreckage of the airbus were discovered on the Bandar-e Lengeh coasts.

Efforts of search parties, relief workers, and first Navy region vessels to find the other martyrs and pieces of the wreckage continue in the Persian Gulf.

According to an IRNA report, to speed up the search operations, teams from the French Airbus manufacturing company have been asked to use their equipment in order to assist Iranian experts in locating the black box.

France To Search for Recorder

LD1707141088 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., July 17, IRNA—The civil aviation organization has requested the French company 'Aerospatiale', the manufacturers of Airbus planes, to cooperate with Iran in finding the flight recorder (black box) of Iran Airbus A-300 missiled down by the U.S. Navy over the Persian Gulf on July 3.

Iranian naval experts and frogmen have conducted extensive search for the plane's black box at the site of its crash in Persian Gulf waters since it was shot down by the USS Vincennes.

Because the debris of the downed jetliner whose engines exploded in mid-air after being hit by two surface-to-air standard guided missiles has been scattered over a vast area, it has made search operations difficult.

On July 3, the regular 5-days a week Iran Air Flight 655 en route to Dubayy from this southern port city was unmanly missiled down by the USS Vincennes. There were no survivors among its 290 passengers and crew, including 66 children and 38 foreigners.

So far, 75 pieces of the plane's wreckage and bodies of 179 victims have been retrieved from Persian Gulf waters.

U.S. 'Created Trouble' for Another Airliner

LD1607125488 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—An informed source at the Civil Aviation Organization has disclosed that U.S. naval fleets deployed in the Persian Gulf had created trouble for another Iranian passenger plane en route to Bandar-e 'Abbas from Bandar-e Lengeh on July 5, that is two days after an Iranian Airbus was missile-downed by USS Vincennes.

The disclosure was made in a letter cabled to president of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) council Assad Kotaite [named as received] by a senior official of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization.

Two days after the American cruiser "USS Vincennes" shot down Iran's Airbus A-300 on a flight to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas, another Iranian airliner en route to Bandar-e 'Abbas from Bandar-e Lengeh, both in southern Iran, was interfered by the American fleets to identify herself and announce her destination, the letter said.

All 290 passengers and crew aboard the Iran Air Flight 655, including 66 children and 38 foreigners were killed after the aircraft split in mid-air and crashed into Persian Gulf waters upon being hit by two surface-to-air missiles from the American cruiser.

The letter also warned that such troubles made by U.S. fleets for Iranian passenger planes would lead to the repetition of the July 3 disaster, the sixth worst aviation tragedy in the world.

Canada Reportedly Seeks To 'Improve Relations'

Delegation Arrives 15 Jul

LD1507210288 Montreal International Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Two officials of the Canadian Government arrived in Tehran today for talks which could lead to the reopening of Canada's Embassy in Iran. As Sheila Bird reports, the talks are aimed at improving relations which were badly damaged during the Iranian revolution.

[Begin Bird recording] Officials of the Canadian External Affairs Department are saying very little, although they did confirm Radio Tehran's report that a Canadian delegation arrived in Tehran for meetings with Iranian authorities. They divulged that one of the two Canadians is an assistant deputy minister of the department, although they refused to give a name. The assistant deputy minister for Africa and the Middle East is Marc Brault. His office reports that he is out of the country. Spokesmen say discussions have been ongoing for several months with Iran in an attempt to improve relations [words indistinct].

Brault Heads Delegation

LD1507205188 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—A Canadian delegation headed by Canada's Assistant of Deputy Foreign Minister Marc Brault arrived here today. The delegation is to discuss with Iranian officials normalization of mutual ties and promotion of Tehran-Ottawa relations.

Received by Larijani

LD1607165888 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Visiting Canadian Assistant Deputy Foreign Minister Marc Brault and his delegation conferred with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani here today. Discussed in the meeting were bilateral relations and matters of mutual interests. The Canadian delegation arrived here Friday for talks on normalization of Tehran-Ottawa ties.

Meets With Velayati

LD1807152188 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with the visiting Canadian delegation here Monday described as 'positive' the group's efforts to normalize Tehran-Ottawa relations.

Head of the Canadian delegation Marc Brault said at the meeting that Ottawa wanted to normalize its ties with Iran because it attached great importance to the Islamic Republic.

The delegation arrived in Tehran on July 10 for talks on normalizing of bilateral ties.

Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Address Meeting

NC1707052388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] During a meeting held at the Prime Ministry last night in the presence of the heads of the three branches of powers, as well as the members of the Council of Experts, the Council of Guardians, and the Supreme Judicial Council, important problems of the country were discussed.

At this meeting, which was also attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavassoli on behalf of the imam, as well as by Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i stated in a speech that the session of the Council of Experts provides a good opportunity in order to discuss the country's problems under the present conditions.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and acting commander in-chief, delivered a speech in which he described the country's political-military conditions and emphasized the need for the vast presence of combat and support forces on the fronts. He said: We will continue the sacred defense until we achieve our just rights. Now that world arrogance has employed all its might against us, the active presence of clergymen and various strata of people is needed now more than ever before.

Montazeri Meets With Musavi-Ardabili

LD1707220988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the president of the Supreme Judicial Council, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. They discussed different judicial matters.

Meshkini Chairs Council of Experts Session

NC1707054088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the sixth session of the Council of Experts convened yesterday afternoon with Ayatollah Meshkini in the chair. During this session, the chairman of the Council of Experts condemned the U.S. crime in attacking the Iranian passenger plane and expressed pleasure over the appointment of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as acting commander-in-chief. Continuing the session, the mid-term representatives of the Council of Experts were sworn in and the spokesman for the committee of Principle 100 of the Constitution submitted a report on its work. Discussions were held on Article 1 proposed by the Committee of the 107th session, and the text of the proposed article was approved after being slightly amended.

The Central News Unit reports that the Council of Experts is to meet this afternoon too.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Montazeri Differences Cited

[Flag of Freedom]
TA1507191588 (Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran's informed circles have reported that differences between Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and Hashemi-Rafsanjani have escalated during the past 2 weeks. These differences became sharper when Montazeri sent a letter to Ruhollah Khomeyni calling for a large-scale attack against the United States. In his reply, however, Khomeyni advised that instead of attacking the United States, it would be better if Montazeri lent his support to Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Following the publication of this letter, in a speech Hashemi-Rafsanjani ruled out retaliation against the United States, saying: Wise men understand why we should not retaliate against the United States. It is being said in Tehran's informed circles that in these remarks Hashemi-Rafsanjani implicitly differentiated between Montazeri and wise men, and this aroused Montazeri's anger.

Khamene'i To Attend Mecca 'Martyrs' Ceremonies

LD1701191880 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Excerpts] On the eve of the 21 July anniversary of massacre of pilgrims to the house of God at the hands of the Al Sa'ud regime, the Islamic Propaganda Office of Qom Seminary issued a statement. It offered condolences and congratulations on this calamity to the imam of the ummah and to the Muslim ummah, particularly the families of the martyrs. [passage omitted]

On the occasion of the anniversary of the massacre of the pilgrims, ceremonies to honor the martyrs will be held for 4 days beginning 21 July. The ceremonies will be held in President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's presence at his office. [passage omitted]

Karrubi Urges Observance of Mecca Anniversary

LD1707112888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Karrubi, representative of the imam to the Hajj and Pilgimage Organization, issued a statement on the anniversary of 21 July, the day of the bloody tragedy at holy Mecca. He urged all Muslims in Iran and the world, particularly Islamic scholars, writers, poets, orators, and Friday imams, as well as the pious and hezbollah forces and the witnesses of the 21 July tragedy throughout the world, to speak out at every opportunity about the various aspects of the tragedy. They are urged to participate in ceremonies and meetings held in honor of the 21 July anniversary on Thursday.

Jamarani Assails Saudis Over Hajj Policy

LD1707113588 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The Ershad Eslami [Islamic Culture] Ministry's symphony orchestra performed a series of anthems on "deliverance from pagans" in commemoration of the hajj pilgrims slain in holy Mecca last July, at Tehran's Vahdat Hall Saturday afternoon.

Addressing the occasion representative of the imam and head of the Hajj and Awqaf Organization Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Jamarani referred to martyrdom of several hundred pilgrims by Saudi police last year during the "deliverance from pagans" demonstrations.

He said that although the Iranian pilgrims have not been allowed to attend [word indistinct] this year, the Iranian Muslims have been able to make the world realise that the Islamic community hates the house of Al Sa'ud, masterminders of last year's tragedy.

He added that the God Almighty has missioned the pious and devout Muslims to run the affairs of the holy shrines. Therefore, the house of Al Sa'ud is not fit to perform this task.

The hojjat ol-eslam said that the Iranian Muslims are proud to be the first ones to unmask the Saudi rulers and stage the "deliverance from pagans" demonstrations in Mecca.

The hajj ceremonies must be performed in a way to be useful for Muslims and denounce enemies of Islam, he said adding that Iran will campaign to this end.

The program will be held for for [as received] days in which provincial groups will also sing songs dedicated to those martyred in Mecca.

OPEC States Urged To Reduce Production

LD1607113488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Iranian oil minister asked all the oil-producing countries today to reduce oil production in an effort to improve the oil market situation until prices reach the OPEC official level.

Stating Iran's views on the oil market situation, oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh invited the OPEC members to accept their responsibilities and commitments to OPEC decisions. He said: If a country fails to live up to the commitments it has signed, then such a country will discredit itself.

He warned oil ministers against any statements which might further aggravate the situation on the oil market and said: All OPEC members must help improve the market and stabilize it, both in words and in actions. He said OPEC members must utilize all their efforts to bring about a political consensus for assisting OPEC and all its members rather than creating problems within an organization that belongs to the 13 countries.

The oil minister added: Oil-producing countries, whether members of OPEC or not, must arrive at an understanding among themselves. Countries that creat obstacles to this objective will be responsible for the deteriorating situation on the oil market.

He added: Unfortunately, Kuwait, the Hijaz, and the United Arab Emirates, after the OPEC meeting and despite their acceptance of the decisions of the meeting, have ignored the understanding reached at the recent OPEC meeting, as seen in their interviews as well as in their actions. He warned that if these countries refuse to abandon their attempts to ruin the market, then other oil-producing countries will regard the fall in their oil income the result of the activities of those countries and will not tolerate this situation.

Commentary on Fight Against Corruption

NC1707092388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Commentary of the Central News Unit research group]

[Text] With the announcement of the recently implemented plan of purging the former Jamshid neighborhood in Tehran in the fight against corruption, lawlessness, and drug trafficking, once again the question that arises among most of the people is: How much longer can the Muslim people of Iran tolerate the presence of such corrupt elements and social parasites?

This neighborhood was one of the sources of corruption for years before the victory of the revolution. With its destruction, one of the important bases of corruption was wiped out, and the corrupt have been deprived of their ability to operate.

However, it should be noted that despite the passage of 10 years since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, not only has the number of such corrupt elements not been reduced, but it has actually increased because of inactivity or short-term operations.

One of the important elements ignored during this 10-year period in the fight against corruption is the fundamental struggle to uproot the social and cultural grounds of this corruption. The spread of corruption is a secretly creeping movement. Therefore, the struggle against it should be carried out more decisively and seriously by taking into consideration all aspects of the issue.

The confrontation with such a dangerous and contagious social phenomenon should include both a struggle against the underlying reasons for it and a struggle against the addicted.

The elements that give rise to corruption and prostitution include poverty, family problems, the lack of a proper upbringing, unemployment, the absence of sports organizations, parks, and healthy leisure spots, and the freedom of operation given to veteran smugglers and corrupt elements in society. All these elements drive many young people to the horrific precipice of the illegal desires of the merchants of prostitution and plague many families. There are undoubtedly other elements, such as psychological, that lead to moral deviation and social corruption. Depression, the lack of hope in the future, fear of the future, the lack of a strong personality, social and family problems, and nervous breakdowns can be elements that trap part of these misled elements.

If society is left as it is and the official steps taken in this struggle are weak and unsuitable, if a correct model for individual and social behavior is not offered, and if a proper upbringing is not provided by the family, then how can such people regain respect, or water be returned to the stream?

It is expected that the implementation of such plans will lead to a pitiless and decisive struggle against elements whoe activities and objectives are centered on illegal and unrestrained desires. It is expected that the difference between the hunters and the hunted will be understood and that each case will be treated on an individual basis.

Another point that can offer a suitable solution in overcoming social corruption, particularly prostitution, is a reduction in the heavy expenses of marriage, having families, and the other related problems. The government can create the suitable basis for this, thus paving the way for marriage by not only encouraging marriage but also by taking practical measures.

Undoubtedly, most of the people support such plans and ask with one voice that officials pay more attention to their pitiless struggle against such elements and dismantle these contaminated areas, pay more attention to eliminating the social and cultural reasons for corruption so that a healthy and active society is created and a brighter future is offered to the children of the revolution.

Cabinet Establishes New War Advisory Post

LD1607192688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] The State Organization for Administrative and Employment Affairs has issued its approval of a cabinet ruling on establishing a war affairs deputy post at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and at the medical science schools throughout the country.

The Central News Unit reports that the establishment of a war affairs deputy post will suitably assist the government, being at the head of the system's affairs, in serving the war effort. The posts have mobilized all the resources of ministries and their affiliated state firms in harmony with the Supreme War Support Council and in realizing the objectives of the state apparatus, while playing an active role in dealing with these affairs.

Volunteer Forces Depart for Battlefronts

Borujerd Clergymen Leave

LD1507223588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Summary] Our correspondent has reported from Borujerd Seminary that a group of clergymen has been dispatched to the fronts. The sixth propagation and combat convoy of Borujerd Seminary left this afternoon, with participants in today's Friday sermons seeing them off. This morning a group of Reconstruction Jihad personnel from Qom left the city after Friday prayers for the fronts.

Khorasan Residents' Convoy

LD1607032088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] Thousands of mobilization forces from Khorasan Province today departed for the frontlines. They departed in a convoy named for the prophet. The convoy left from the immaculate shrine to his Holiness the eighth imam [in Mashhad].

Members of the convoy, consisting of clergy, students, workers, civil servants, farmers, and tribesmen from Khorasan, will be on the frontline for 45 days.

Before the forces departed a military commander gave a speech emphasizing the need to send even more forces to the frontlines. He then said: At this juncture of the imposed war, the mobilization of forces for the fronts continues as always to be of special importance.

Mazandaran Popular Forces

LD1607152788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Summary] The dispatch of fresh popular forces to the battlefronts continued this morning in Mazandaran Province. A large number of mobilization personnel left from Chalus amid chants for the continuation of the war and of condemnation of the United States. These Basij forces included teachers, state employees, workers, and farmers from provincial towns.

Mobilization Forces Depart

LD1607194488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] In response to the statement by the General Command Headquarters on a greater presence by popular forces at the warfronts, a large number of mobilization forces departed for the country's war zones yesterday and today. The forces left from the areas of Zarand, Dizaj, Gorgan, Borujen, Shahr-e Kord, and Farsan.

A well-informed military official stressed that the capable Islamic fighters are still awaiting more of the popular fighting forces to join their ranks at the battlefronts in order to continue the holy defense against the aggressor enemy.

Qom Clergymen's Convoy

LD1707150688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, a large group of the mobilization forces and clergymen of the city of Qom left for the fronts today in a convoy under the title of the Mohammad Corps. In the departure ceremonies of the groups of mobilization forces, a military commander emphasized the need for the continuing movement of fresh forces toward the fronts.

According to the report, a group of scholars from the Esfahan seminary left for the fronts today.

Further on Qom Departures

LD1707151188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Summary] A large group of the Mohammad, Peace Be Upon Him, Corps called the "Special Forces of Holy Mecca Martyrs" left this morning from Qom. IRNA reports the combat-skilled and redispatch forces were accompanied by conscript and regular guards. They were given a large send-off.

A large group of Islamic Republic of Iran police cadets of the police officers' college left Tehran this morning.

Volunteers From Deh Dasht

LD1807011588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, a large group of popular volunteer forces from Ostan-e Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh left the city of Deh Dasht and the areas of (Bahma'i-ye Landeh), (Torram), and (Sisaqf) this afternoon to join the warriors of Islam. They were given a warm sendoff by the region's people and tribes.

Liberian Tanker Reportedly Attacked in Gulf

LD1507183188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Text] REUTER, quoting shipping sources, reports that speedboats attacked an oil tanker flying the Liberian flag in the Central Persian Gulf today. The 85,989-ton oil tanker, the "Sea Victory", was set on fire as a result of the attack.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

2 'Martyred' in Sar Dasht Area

LD1607132788 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., July 16, IRNA—Two villagers were martyred and seven others wounded when Iraqi forces shelled several villages around Sar Dasht, northwestern Iran, from Friday night to early Saturday.

Farm lands, rural houses and pastures in the region also suffered heavy damage in the Iraqi shelling.

Iraqi troops also opened fire on some villages around the northwestern Iranian town of Piranshahr. No report on casualties or losses was immediately available.

Communique No 3,265

LD1607172088 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets on their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Friday, reconnoitered 32 vessels of various kinds, said a communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Saturday.

The 3265th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units, in addition to controling shipping in the Strait of Hormuz Friday, sent a warning to a foreign helicopter attempting to approach an oil rig.

On July 14, pitched battles continued between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops in Hajj 'Umran and Kalashin heights, northwestern sector, with the former suppressing the latter.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued in the western and southern fronts yesterday as a result of which a large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and several enemy bunkers destroyed.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in zones of their influence yesterday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze four enemy gun emplacements, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Planes Overfly 3 Provinces

LD1707095088 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Iraqi war planes Sunday morning violated airspace of cities in Lorestan, Esfahan and Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Provinces breaking the sound barrier.

The intruding planes fled by [as received] the heavy fire of the Iranian air defence gunners.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Khuzestan Site

LD1707125588 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 17, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed a labor-industrial unit and violated the airspace of a number of cities in this southern province before noon Sunday. No report on possible casualties or losses was immediately available.

The enemy warplanes also broke the sound barrier over Dezful and Masjed-e Soleyman while fleeing.

Communique No 3,266

LD1707171788 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters reconnoitered 17 foreign vessels during their patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman Saturday, the 3266th Joint Staff communique reported here today.

It said Iranian naval units also continued their patrol operations in the southern waters yesterday, but did not observe any suspicious cases.

On the battlefields, artillery fire of Iranian combatants on two Iraqi motorized columns in Lolan [placename as received] and Piranshahr regions of the northwestern fronts inflicted some damage on several Iraqi vehicles.

Some Iraqi patrols attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in Baneh border strip Saturday night, but the alertness of Iranian artillery fire halted their movements, forcing them to flee with some casualties and losses.

Artillery fire of the Muslim combatants also suppressed movement of an Iraqi infantry unit in Mehran-Salehabad axis forcing them to retreat sustaining casualties and losses. Trade of artillery, tank and mortar fire continued throughout the war fronts, with the Muslim forces checking enemy movements and destroying several tanks and inflicting casualties on the Iraqi troops, concluded the communique.

Kurds Kill 10 Soldiers

LD1707122688 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—Iraqi Kurdish Muslim peshmergas killed over 10 government soldiers in an attack on a headquarters of a Khafifa (light) Battalion of the Ba'thist troops in Shiladiza [name as received] region, Dahuk Province last week.

According to a statement issued by the Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) irregulars today, many other Iraqi soldiers were also wounded and heavy damage was inflicted on the headquarters.

Pakistan

Reportage on Shooting, Rioting in Hyderabad

Mayor Hurt, Councillor Killed

BK1707153588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] The mayor of Hyderabad City and a councillor accompanying him were attacked by certain unidentified armed men in Hyderabad today, according to reports. The mayor was injured, while the councillor was killed in the attack. Some other persons were also injured. A curfew was imposed in Hyderabad for an indefinite period after this violent incident.

Ziaul Haq Condemns Violence

BK1807030488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has taken serious notice of the shooting incident in Hyderabad yesterday, in which the mayor of Hyderabad, Aftab Sheik, and his driver were seriously injured and a councillor, Haji Abdul Rashid, was killed. Strongly condemning the dastardly attempt on the lives of the mayor and the councillors, the president expressed the hope that the law enforcement agencies of Sind will take every step to catch the culprits and give them an exemplary punishment. The president expressed sympathy with the families affected by this unprovoked attack.

A press release issued by the Central Karachi District Magistrate said that, despite heavy rains, groups of students appeared on major roads in Liaqatabad police station area at about 1730 [1230 GMT] yesterday evening and started pelting vehicles with stones. An attempt was made to damage a bus and set it on fire near a cinema, but due to the timely intervention of the police, the bus was saved. A passing police truck was fired upon near Liaqatabad (?Street) Number Ten at about 1930 in the evening, seriously injuring three policemen, one of whom succumbed to his injuries. The other injured policemen were admitted to hospital.

Efforts are being made to apprehend the offenders. Heavy police patrols continue to save the people from any anxiety and police reinforcements have been deployed in the area.

Hyderabad Rioting Spreads

BK1807125188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jul 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the ethnic violence which erupted in Hyderabad in the Sind Province has spread to nearby cities. Troops empowered to shoot at sight have been trying to enforce indefinite curfew in the riot-torn Hyderabad. At least 11 people have been killed in the clashes which broke out following an attack on the city mayor by a group of unidentified gunmen. The mayor, who was injured, is reported to be out of danger.

Scores of shops were looted and set on fire and vehicles were damaged. Opposition leaders in Pakistan have blamed General Zia's caretaker government for the renewed violence in Hyderabad.

President Ziaul Haq Receives Omani Emissary

BK1707043888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 88

[Text] The special emissary of Sultan Qabus of Oman, Ahmad 'Abd al Nabi Makti, who is also Oman's minister of state for civil services, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening and handed over a goodwill message from the Sultan. They also exchanged views on bilateral relations and current situation in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was also present on the occasion.

Later, the president hosted a dinner in honor of the distinguished guest.

Receives Kuwaiti Minister

LD1807040088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1847 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 17 (KUNA)—Pakistan's President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq Sunday night received a message from his highness the amir of Kuwait. The message was delivered by Kuwait's Minister of State for Services Affairs 'Isa Muhammad al-Mazidi when he was received by the Pakistani president. Al-Mazidi arrived here earlier in the evening, carrying his highness the amir's letter.

Foreign Minister on Kabul's 'Acts Of Aggression'

BK1707163888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 JUl 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told the Senate today that Pakistan will spare no effort in fulfilling its obligations under the Geneva accord. He was speaking on two identical adjournment motions, moved by Tariq Chaudhary and Prof Khurshid Ahmad, calling for a discussion on the shelling of Pakistani territories in Bajaur and Mohmand agencies by Kabul regime artillery, resulting in the death of eight persons.

The foreign minister said the government is aware of the (?importance) of the successful implementation of the Geneva accords. The incident which the distinguished members mentioned had occurred before the Geneva accord came into force. However, as far as we are concerned, we strongly condemn such actions. The Kabul authorities have been warned that such acts of aggression may bring about serious consequences. Pakistan has taken measures to upgrade its defense capability to prevent the recurrence of such aggression.

The foreign minister said the UN secretary general is being kept fully informed of the violations of Pakistani territory by the Kabul side. Since 15 May, when the Geneva accord came into force, such violations—which are against the accord—have been brought to the attention of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He said our policy of patience and restraint is directed by our desire to avoid escalation in military activities and to a create congenial atmosphere for the implementation of the Geneva accord.

He said the honorable senators will appreciate the fact that the Kabul regime's violations of our territory are part of Kabul's deliberate attempt to vitiate the situation and to derail the Geneva accords. The Kabul regime hopes that such actions will provide a pretext for the Soviet Union to stop and delay the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, so they can get the opportunity to strengthen their positions.

The foreign minister said the teams of UN observers have made on-the-spot inspections of our border area stretching from Chitral to Chaman on more than seven occasions. The teams of observers had inspected the places where so-called training camps exist. They checked all incoming and outgoing vehicles and heard the views of the Afghan refugees about their return to their homeland under existing conditions. After the minister's statement, the movers did not press their motions.

Sri Lanka

Roundup of Terrorist Activities in North, East

BK1507132888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1216 GMT 15 Jul 83

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—Three civilians were shot dead and one woman was wounded by unidentified armed youth in Walathapitiya in the Ampara-Batticaloa sector in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province Wednesday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH today that armed youths had abducted Chandran

Raveendra, Chandran Rajan, Sinnathambi Sri Kandaraja and his wife on Wednesday. The bodies of the three dead men were later found with gunshot wounds at Palaveli Junction. The woman was admitted to Ampara Hospital.

This is suspected to be a terrorist act.

Meanwhile, eight suspects were apprehended and one wounded in the operations conducted by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in northern and eastern Sri Lanka during the last two days. Official sources said that 6 suspects were captured during the IPKF cordon and search operations 4 kilometers south-east of Barons Cap in the Batticaloa sector.

A report from the Trincomalee sector states that two suspects were caught by the Indian troops 3 kilometres north-east of Muttur.

An IPKF column was fired at by three to four terrorists in an area 9 kilometres east of Mankulam in the Vavuniya sector. One terrorist was wounded and one IPKF soldier received minor injuries in the encounter.

One abandoned camp was destroyed by IPKF troops, 10 kilometres east of Dharmapura in the Wanni sector. Dry rations, cooked food and items of clothing were recovered.

Eight unidentified armed persons had broken into the Sarvodaya Centre, threatened the rehabilitation officer, I.G. Tennakoon, and his assistant and had taken away 10 shotguns and cartridges in Padaviya in Welioya.

6 IPKF Soldiers Killed

BK1707040288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, six Peacekeeping Force [PKF] soldiers have been killed in clashes with Tamil militants in the northern and eastern parts of the island. A spokesman of the PKF said that four soldiers were killed by a landmine detonated by the LTTE men in eastern Pottuvil region.

Two more soldiers were killed when LTTE men fired on a military patrolling unit yesterday.

LANKAPUVATH Notes Operations Against JVP

BK1507131888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1240 GMT 15 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—A man described by police as a district leader of the military wing of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] and three JVP suspects have been arrested by the police and the Sri Lankan Army security forces.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH today that the police arrested Godahewage Kularatne while he was engaged in effecting repairs to two walkie talkies in the Kahathuduwa police area, in the Kalutara District. He was also in possession of explosives and an instructional booklet on landmines and explosives. He was alleged to have admitted to being the JVP military wing leader of Kalutara who had participated in the attack on the Kumbukke home guard training center, official sources said.

Three JVP suspects were apprehended by the security forces coordinating office headquarters in Gampaha with the assistance of the police yesterday.

A report from Matara states that K.D. Dharamasiri, a retired teacher, was shot and killed by a passenger when he was travelling in a private coach from Dickwella to Matara, in Sri Lanka's deep south, yesterday. The deceased was reported to be a supporter of the Communist Party, official sources said.

UNP Wins 3 Seats, SLFP Wins 1 in By-Election

BK1507114588 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The UNP won three seats and the SLFP one in the parliamentary by-elections held yesterday in the Katugampola, Welimada, Kekirawa, and Ratnapura electorates. [passage omitted]

Political observers see yesterday's vote as the reaffirmation of faith in the policies of the UNP and a vote of endorsement for the [Indo-Sri Lanka] peace accord. It is also seen as a total rejection of terrorist method.

According to the assistant commissioner of election, Victor Samaravira, 85 percent of the voters cast their vote in the Ratnapura electorate. The turnout in Welimada had been around same as Ratnapura. A 70 percent turnout was recorded at Kekirawa.